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## US updates Mordechai on Iraq situation

By ANNE O'SULLIVAN and news agencies

US Secretary of Defense William Cohen last night updated the hot line to update Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai on the Iraqi crisis.

Mordechai gave Israel's solid backing for the current US efforts to pressure Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors.

Cohen, who initiated the telephone call, also briefed Mordechai on his recent visit to the Middle East aimed at garnering Arab support for military action against Iraq.

Defense sources said that while the conversation focused mainly on the growing crisis with Iraq, the two also spoke of the peace process.

The US has reportedly put Patriot missile batteries on stand-by in Europe to be quickly transferred to Israel should an Iraqi attack appear imminent.

Defense sources have said that no decision had been made regarding US military aid.

British Defense Secretary George Robertson, meanwhile, warned that "time is running out" for Iraq, and said Baghdad must allow UN weapons inspectors to resume their work.

"Our patience is running out, [Saddam's] time is running out," Robertson said in Bahrain, which hosts the headquarters of

the US 5th Fleet.

He said the emirate recognizes "that there may be no other option left than the one Saddam respects most" - military force.

Robertson said Crown Prince Sheikh Hamid bin Isa al-Khalifa "was able to confirm that Bahrain would support the calls being made on Saddam to comply and that the option of force must remain there, must be one of the options."

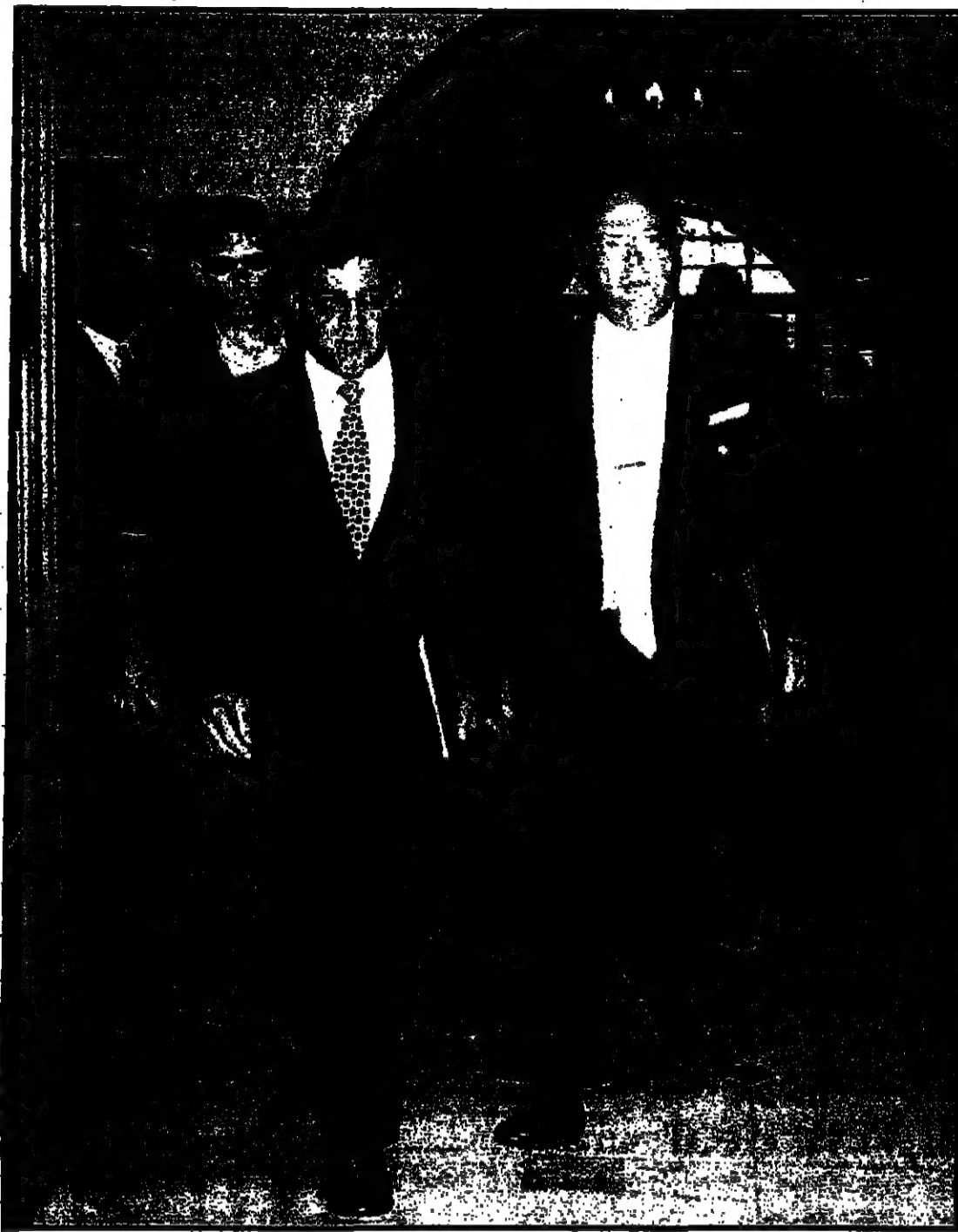
Robertson said that while Britain is seeking a diplomatic solution it is prepared to use force.

Britain and the United States have not ruled out military strikes on Iraq to force Baghdad to rescind its October 31 decision to halt all work by the UN Special Commission, which oversees the dismantling of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons program and long-range missiles.

Baghdad says the disarmament work cannot resume until the Security Council gives a timetable for lifting economic sanctions.

Robertson visited Kuwait before heading to Bahrain. He said his Kuwait visit should "give a message that should go directly to Baghdad: Do not underestimate the resolution of the international community."

He spoke at Kuwait's Ali al-Salem Air Base, standing beneath the wing of a Tornado strike aircraft.



Ambassador to Cyprus Shemi Tzur (left) accompanies Beit Hanassi Director-General Arye Shumer to a meeting with President Glafcos Clerides in Nicosia yesterday.

After Cyprus talks

## Weizman envoy sees end to crisis

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

Despite warnings by Cypriot officials of possible repercussions over the arrest of two Israelis suspected of spying, Beit Hanassi Director-General Arye Shumer was upbeat yesterday over the restoration of friendly relations following the intervention of President Ezer Weizman.

Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides has agreed to continue upgrading bilateral relations after Weizman sent Shumer to assure him of Israel's friendly intentions.

Shumer said last night after meeting with Clerides in Nicosia.

Weizman telephoned Clerides - with whom he struck up a close relationship during his state visit last week to Nicosia - to thank him for the visit and to assure him of Israel's friendly intentions and continuing desire for cooperation.

During the conversation, Weizman said he would like to dispatch a personal letter with Shumer, and Clerides said he would be happy to receive it.

Shumer then flew to Nicosia, where, together with Ambassador Shemi Tzur, he met with Clerides and presented him with Weizman's letter. Shumer was due to return here late last night.

according to him.

The letter contained "a message of friendship," Tzur told reporters later. Weizman reportedly spoke of "an unexpected cloud" that had cast a shadow and said he had been saddened by the incident.

For his part, Clerides assured the envoys of his intention to continue strengthening the good relations that have existed between the countries, particularly since Cyprus established diplomatic relations with Israel following the Oslo Accords. Clerides reportedly said he also hoped the cloud would soon pass and all that had been achieved in the visit would come to fruition.

It is not clear whether any references were made in the letter to Cypriot requests for Israeli intervention with Turkey or for military cooperation with the neighboring island.

"Relations with Nicosia will continue to be good; in fact, they will get better," Shumer said last night in a telephone interview from Nicosia.

He said the plans for cooperation discussed last week by Cypriot ministers and officials with the directors-general of Israeli ministries - with an aim to furthering commercial, agricultural, health and telecommunications relations - would be implemented as planned.

See CYPRUS, Page 4

## Amidror's panning peace songs stirs furor

By ANNE O'SULLIVAN

Less than two months after he took command of the National Defense College, Maj.-Gen. Ya'acov Amidror has come under fire for trying to censor peace songs in the IDF.

An IDF troupe was performing the haunting and melancholy "The Children of the Winter of '73," followed by the hopeful "I Give You My Promise."

Amidror reportedly took the stage afterward and declared that these songs shouldn't be sung anymore.

"The words in these songs are a lie. It is a lie to promise a 'dove with an olive branch,' and no one ever promised that this will be the very last war," Amidror reportedly said, paraphrasing the lyrics.

When Israel Radio's Carmela Menashe broke the story yesterday, the furor was not long in coming. Legislators on the Left called for Amidror's dismissal - as a myopic militarist, while right-wing politicians came to his defense.

The debate underscores not only the sensitivity over censorship of songs, but the battle over symbols in a country in transformation.

"In this country, everything is politicized; everything is an argument," said Oz Almog, a lecturer on sociology at the Jezreel Valley College. "In a changing society, Israelis have a tendency to argue over very emotionally loaded matters, and one of these matters are symbols. Songs are symbols."

The incident took place about 10 days ago in a closed-door seminar on the 25th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War. It was attended by senior officers, including Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz.

After Amidror's comment, there was reportedly silence in the hall.

Later, one officer was quoted as saying: "Yet another miserable utterance from Amidror."

Amidror, the first observant Jew named to the General Staff, except for the OC Chaplaincy Corps, had been a top intelligence officer and spent the past two years as Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's military aide. He had been touted as the next OC Intelligence, but he was not appointed after he gave an interview to *Yediot Aharanot* in which he criticized secular culture and said that "secular Jews are nothing but Hebrew-speaking gentiles."

He later apologized, saying he deeply regretted his words, and his intention in the interview had been to open a dialogue.

But it was too late. He was marked by the Left as a rabid religious nationalist. His eventual promotion was seen by observant Jews as symbolic of their rise in the IDF.

Amidror did not grant interviews yesterday, and IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Oded Ben-Ami, while not denying Amidror's statements, issued a laconic statement saying they were his personal opinion made in a military forum.

"It is not the practice of the IDF to hold debate over such matters in the media," the statement said.

Meretz's Yossi Sarid and Ran Cohen called for Amidror's dismissal, saying that education of the IDF's top people shouldn't be put into his hands.

But Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi backed Amidror.

"I don't think this should be turned into a political argument. Maj.-Gen. Amidror is free to express his opinion. That is why he was promoted. I know him to be intelligent and original and creative, and so one should try to understand him," said Hanegbi.

Amidror said he was mistaken in trying to censor a song.

Brig.-Gen. (res.) Nehemia

Dagan, a former chief education officer, called Amidror's attitude "first-class foolishness."

"It's extremism... just one man's extremism," Dagan told *Israel Radio*. "No one wants to raise a generation of militants. I very much fear that militancy makes the army weaker. This comes from a militant political view, and I'm sure that the rest of the army doesn't think this way."

Yehoram Gaon, who made the song "I Give You My Promise" famous, also took offense.

Written during the darkest days of the Yom Kippur War by Haim Hefer, he sang the song on the battlefields and said it gave hope to the soldiers and the public.

The last thing Hefer meant was a promise, Gaon told *Israel Radio*. It was more of a prayer, hope, but certainly not a promise.

"It's nonsense. What? Should we be realistic and sing: 'Don't delude yourselves. There will always be wars in our burning country?'" Gaon asked.

Gaon said that former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin liked the song and often asked him to sing it.

"I'd sing and he would translate it for people to know what we sang about," Gaon said. "Not every country has a song of surrendering to and praying for peace. We do, and if there is someone who thinks there shouldn't be, then they are not too smart."

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is particularly fond of the song "The Children of the Winter of '73," and it is sung at nearly every reception he hosts for visiting dignitaries.

Amidror said that Amidror's opposition to the song "shows his distress. A man in his position, particularly a man in the intelligence community, needs to be sensitive to symbols. He has already tripped up in the past. It seems he keeps setting himself up for a fall."

## Four indicted in terror murder

By ELI WOHLGELER

Four Hamas terrorists have been indicted for the murder of David Kiorza, who was killed February 11 in Jerusalem's Ramat Shlomo neighborhood.

The four were identified as Ibrahim Abasi, 39, of Silwan, the ringleader, who works for *Ha'aretz* in an unknown capacity; Shuabba Abu Snini, 32, also of Silwan, who works in a vegetable store; Rajab Dahhan, 31, of Ras el-Amud, who works in a sweets shop; and Mahmoud Idri, 27, who drives a truck for a meat and fish store and lives in A-Ram.

The four were arrested two weeks ago and arraigned yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

Kiorza, a kollel student who emigrated from Marseilles in 1995, was killed as he was walking from his house to morning prayers.

Police said the four, who all had previous records, were arrested two weeks ago and had confessed. They joined Hamas in 1995, and moved to its military wing in 1996-97.

Police said the gang had scouted locations around Jerusalem looking for an unaccompanied Jew. As they drove around, three of them, two with knives, spotted Kiorza about 100 meters from his house on his way to synagogue.

Two of the terrorists got out of the car and stabbed him many times in the hand and chest. They then got back in the car and escaped.

Abu Snini was wounded in the attack, and after the gang abandoned the car near A-Ram, he walked to Neveh Ya'acov, where he was arrested and brought to Hadassah-University Hospital, Mount Scopus, for treatment.

He denied any involvement in the murder, and police, with no evidence linking him to the crime, released him.

But they placed him under surveillance and finally made the arrests two weeks ago.

Gerard Bulbus, a lawyer for the four, said all the material given to the judge was classified, and he was not allowed to meet his clients at any length, and that he had not heard any confession from any of them.

Itm contributed to this report.

## Neo-Nazis kept out of Israel

By ELI WOHLGELER

A group of 40 neo-Nazis from Germany was denied entry to the country last night after the Interior Ministry informed the group through Lufthansa Airlines that it would be stopped at Ben-Gurion Airport.

The group was informed of Israel's plans even before boarding the plane in Frankfurt, but decided to try to enter anyway. The group disembarked after the pilot diverted the flight to Istanbul. It is unclear just what the purpose of the attempted visit was.

An Israeli passenger, Yonatan Chinko, told *Israel Radio*: "Suddenly, the captain announced that 'we are forced to land in Istanbul.' When I heard this, I started to worry, because he gave no explanation. I was really shocked, and so were the other Israelis. We didn't understand what had happened. Then one of the stewards said there was a group of people who weren't allowed to land in Israel."

He said the German group got off in Istanbul and the flight continued on to Israel after a four-hour delay.

When the story of the impending visit was first revealed yesterday in *Yediot Aharanot* - which published

details of the group of right-wing racists, some of whom are veteran Nazis - there was a strong protest throughout the country.

Yad Vashem issued a statement objecting to the visit, noting that dozens of Holocaust survivors called it following the publication of the article.

"They expressed their objections to and pain at this visit, especially since the arrival of the delegation coincided with the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht," when dozens of Jews were killed, hundreds of synagogues and Jewish shops were burned and destroyed, and 30,000 Jews were arrested in the first major pogrom of the Holocaust.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon said he was "very surprised" at news of their intended arrival, "particularly on this day, 60 years after Kristallnacht. I wouldn't have invited them, and I won't meet with them. And I call on all those who have scheduled meetings with the group to cancel them and boycott the group."

The German Embassy in Tel Aviv issued a statement saying it had "no advance information on the intention of the visit, and is not involved in the organization of the visit."

Liat Collins and news agencies contributed to this report.

## A most violent campaign

By HERS KENON

Were a sociologist to create a profile of Israeli society based on the election campaign that ends today, the sketch would be of a fragmented, individualistic, non-ideological society that provides opportunities for the young, enjoys the "good life," and is prone to violence.

Some 1,716 different lists will be competing for 2,800 seats on city and local councils. In 1993, the last major round of municipal elections, the number was 1,354 lists. There are 682 mayoral candidates, as opposed to 569 during the last elections. And, as of a week ago, there were already 170 complaints of violence - an unprecedented number.

These are not just dry statistics. They say much about the tone, tenor, and content of the campaign and, by extension, something about the nation as well.

Much has been said about these elections marking the beginning of the end of the era of the major parties, which may indeed be the case. In city after city, candidates - hop-

ing to gain greater appeal - ran on their own, away from the "mother" party.

A voter's guide, Page 3

But, according to Oz Almog, a sociologist at the Jezreel Valley College and author of the critically acclaimed best-seller *Sabra - A Profile*, one of the most notable phenomena of this campaign has been the startling level of violence.

Rarely did a day pass where there was not some report of political violence. One day it was a threat on the life of Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav for openly campaigning for his brother in Kiryat Malachi; on another it was three campaign workers in Petah Tikva attacking a worker from a rival party putting up campaign posters; and on a third, it was a Likud campaign worker beaten as he was handing out stickers in Jaffa.

See CAMPAIGN, Page 6

**FREE LUXURY CRUISE**  
DETAILS IN TODAY'S JERUSALEM POST

**Local Elections**



## NEWS

in brief

## Soldier jailed for hitchhiking with Palestinian

A female soldier caught accepting a ride with a Palestinian in the Gaza Strip was sentenced to 14 days hard labor for disobeying regulations banning hitchhiking. The soldier had been on her way back to base from leave, when she accepted a ride from a Palestinian who stopped for her on his own accord, the army said. A few minutes later an IDF patrol saw her in the van and pulled it over for inspection. The soldier was taken to her base by the patrol. After an examination by her commander revealed that she had been properly briefed on the regulations barring female soldiers from hitchhiking in the territories, she was tried and punished, the army said. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

## Moslem boy's organs save Jewish lives

The family of an eight-year-old Moslem boy from the village of Tira who was killed in a road accident donated his liver to a 39-year-old Jewish woman in Petah Tikva yesterday, one of six organs transplanted yesterday at the Rabin Medical Center and Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel. Five donated kidneys were transplanted in a 13-year-old girl, an 18-year-old girl, a four-year-old boy, an 11-year-old boy, and a 28-year-old man. Meanwhile, Ali Abu Ras, 21, from Lut village was killed when his truck overturned near Nazareth early yesterday. *Judy Siegel*

## Man to rest beside son in military cemetery

The Defense Ministry yesterday approved a request by a Safed family from to bury a man next to his son who had been killed while serving in the IDF. Emil Ben-Shimon, the father of Baruch Ben-Shimon - who was killed in a clash in Lebanon six years ago died on Sunday. Before his death, he had conducted lengthy negotiations with the ministry, asking to be buried next to his son. His widow, Julia, said she "had no words" to thank the ministry for allowing this rare request. "It's a small contribution during a difficult time," she said. *litm*

## Israel acknowledges Lebanese top soil taken

After initial denials, Israel yesterday confirmed that Israelis have been stealing top soil from southern Lebanon and carting it off to Israel. A Foreign Ministry statement did not make it clear whether those involved were soldiers. South Lebanon is off-limits to Israeli civilians, and the ministry said the IDF and the police are looking into the matter. Ministry spokesman Aviv Shiron said a first investigation showed that soil was taken from an area near the border for private purposes. Shiron said the ministry has not yet contacted the Lebanese government. *AP*

## Human rights activist denied visit to Yassin

The Palestinian Police prevented Dr. Haidar Abdel-Shafi, director of the Palestinian Independent Commission for the Citizen Rights, from visiting Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, yesterday. Yassin has been under house arrest since a car bombing in Gaza three weeks ago. The Palestinian Police has recently released several prominent Hamas supporters arrested at the time - Mahmoud Zahar, Sayed Abu Musameh, Ismail Haniya, Ismail Abu Shanab and Ahmed Baber. *Mohammed Najib*

## 80 foreign workers arrested

Police arrested 80 illegal foreign workers in Tel Aviv yesterday. They later released 10 on humanitarian grounds, and transferred the others to Ma'asiyahu Prison, where they were served with deportation orders. *litm*

## Split looms in NRP

By SARAH HONIG

The National Religious Party is in severe danger of a split, according to party leader Education Minister Yitzhak Levy.

Levy expressed his opinion after six hours of heated, often acrimonious debate by the party's Knesset faction yesterday on whether the NRP ought to leave the coalition.

In the end it was decided not to decide. The meeting broke off without a vote, in part to prevent the appearance of an open rift, especially on the eve of today's local elections. For the same reason, a session of the party's central committee to deliberate the same thorny subject is being postponed for the second week in a row.

The official line at the conclusion of yesterday's meeting was that the issue will be decided only after the Wye agreement is brought before the cabinet and

voted upon.

Leading the two opposite poles in the party are MK Hanan Porat, who wants the NRP to quit the coalition now, and Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom, who cautions against "throwing the baby out with the bath water."

Both are ultra-hawks but Porat considers the Wye agreement a sell-out by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while Yahalom, who also opposes the deal, thinks that the NRP must, in the present political configuration, consider Netanyahu's Likud-led coalition the lesser of possible evils.

Porat advocated that the NRP support the pending early elections bill and that it "become the central pivot in a new political entity or bloc. It will not lose its uniqueness, but will spearhead a new united force for the national camp. We will field our own prime ministerial candidate, and we stand a chance

of winning, despite what all the spreaders of gloom contend. If we do not now stand up for the cause of Eretz Yisrael, the NRP will collapse and disintegrate."

Yahalom countered that Porat "evinces a pitiful lack of realism. I too wish Netanyahu had never gotten himself into the Wye quagmire and that he had never brought back such a disaster of an agreement. However, what can we expect from early elections? Either Netanyahu will win and we are back where we started, or Ehud Barak will win and put Yossi Sarid and Yossi Beilin in charge of the final-status negotiations. Anyone who thinks this will further our cause ought to have his head examined. A third prime ministerial candidate will have no chance and will possibly only chip away at Netanyahu's chances. If a new national-camp bloc is set up, the NRP will dissolve in it, and will be swallowed up and lost forever."

## Tichon to bring early election bills next week

By LIAT COLLINS

In yet another sign of the volatility of Knesset politics, the MKs who two weeks ago were complaining that the coalition was not doing enough to allow the vote on the first reading of bills calling for early elections, yesterday criticized the decision by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon to bring the matter to a vote next Monday.

The bills' initiators - Haim Ramon and Ra'anana Cohen (Labor) and Meretz whip Haim Oron - are now calling for the debate and vote on first reading to be postponed by a few weeks.

They were joined in this by MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) and Education Minister and National Religious Party leader Yitzhak Levy, who both said the diplomatic process and the early elections bills are intertwined.

The Knesset is now considered unlikely to vote on the Wye agreement this week as planned, because the government has not yet approved the memorandum.

Tichon said yesterday he would postpone the first reading of the bills, which call for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections, only if the faction heads of the two largest parties - Labor and Likud - both agree.

Coalition and Likud whip Meir Sheetrit so far has rejected this possibility.

Tichon also said the first reading of the bill by MKs Uzi Landau (Likud) and Yossi Beilin (Labor) on abolishing the direct election system will come up on Monday as well.

Both the bills on the early elections and the one on changing the electoral system require the support of at least 61 MKs to pass. If they fail, they cannot be raised again for six months.

## Barak to Hassan: Labor will back any move toward peace

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and DANNA HARMAN

Labor will vote for the Wye agreement in the Knesset and support every move the government makes toward peace, Labor Party leader Ehud Barak told Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan yesterday.

At a palace meeting in Amman, Barak told Hassan that "at the same time we are striving to advance the elections, because we disagree with the government on every issue and want to change its erroneous order of priorities."

The meeting began with a 45-minute tete-a-tete, after which Hassan and Barak were joined by MKs Yossi Katz and Eitan Cabel, Ambassador to Jordan Oded Eran and senior Jordanian officials.

Meanwhile, MK Yossi Beilin yesterday suggested a way to break the delay in implementing the Wye agreement.

Beilin prepared a document entitled "Israeli-Palestinian Partnership against surrendering to terror," which he sent to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and presented to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in person.

The document, based on the framework of an anti-terror statement put out earlier this year by Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland, calls on both parties to declare that the peace process will not be halted by terror attacks.



Labor Party leader Ehud Barak holds talks with Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan in Amman yesterday. (AP)

"Only if one side is convinced, beyond any doubt, that the other side could have prevented an act of

terror, and did not, could the process be suspended and a procedure of clarification be conducted

pursuant to its concerns," according to the document. Arafat responded favorably to the

suggestion, telling Beilin he would be interested in making such a pact with the government.

## US calls on Israel to fulfill Wye deal

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - State Department spokesman James Rubin yesterday called on Jerusalem to fulfill its commitments to adopt the Wye agreement and begin implementation.

"It is important that the Israeli government resume the political-legal process soon and carry out its responsibilities under the terms of the Wye Memorandum," Rubin told reporters at his daily briefing. But he stopped short of blaming Israel for not bringing the agreement to a cabinet vote, and expressed hope that it will not throw off the implementation schedule.

"By next week it is possible for both sides to carry out all the steps

that were envisioned in the first part of the Wye Memorandum time line. Prime Minister Netanyahu has said that he is committed to advancing the agreement, and we expect that the Israeli government will move ahead expeditiously," Rubin said.

The Palestinians have "begun meeting their commitments," he said, including resuming security cooperation, designating its representatives to an anti-incitement committee, and affirming chairman Yasser Arafat's letter annulling specific clauses of the Palestinian Covenant.

Rubin did not explicitly clear up the Israeli-Palestinian controversy over whether the Palestinian National Council session in early December must vote to annul those provisions. He said only that

the Palestinians would take the "relevant procedures" under the Wye agreement to settle the matter and "reaffirm" Arafat's January letter to Clinton.

A senior administration official expressed optimism that the deal is in no danger of collapse, saying that "if it's based on self-interest, that is the surest indication to me that however great the difficulties in implementing it, they'll get it done. The issue that we're focused on now is implementation."


He added that the administration is aware that much of the postponement is due to internal Israeli political pressures, but that the US believes that the effort it is exerting is both worthwhile and expected.

## THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SAVE TEL AVIV

Most of the lists for City Council are already committed to one person.

"Tel Aviv Liberals" will be committed to 360,000 people.



If the fact that the results of the elections in Tel Aviv are already "sewn up" is a good enough reason for you not to bother to vote, we've got news for you: since most of the lists have already committed themselves to one mayor, today, more than ever, it's vital that on the city council there will be one strong list whose sole commitment will be to the 360,000 residents of Tel Aviv and which will enable them to influence and keep an eye on the management of the city. "Tel Aviv Liberals," headed by David Admon, is not committed to the mayor. It will make sure that the municipality functions democratically and will keep a close eye on everything the mayor does. Thousands of Tel Aviv residents have already joined "Tel Aviv Active Line" and have ensured themselves the right to influence the decisions of the city council over the next five years. Election day is your last opportunity to join them. On election day, put a yellow slip in the ballot box for mayor and, to save Tel Aviv from dictatorship, put  in the second ballot box for "Tel Aviv Liberals." You can join the "Tel Aviv Active Line" upto and including 10.11.98 **03-512-3100**

## TEL AVIV LIBERALS

The citizens decide for the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipal Council

התושבים הם שקובעים.

תל אביב יבדלית



## Wye said to affect over 30 settlements

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

More than 30 settlements in Judea and Samaria will be affected by the second West Bank withdrawal, settlement leaders warned yesterday. Some will be turned into isolated enclaves and many others will have their security compromised.

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza called on the security heads of all settlements to refrain from meeting with IDF officers to discuss enhancing security until the Wye maps are seen so the settlers will know what they will face during the redeployment. Spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar

said the council feels that a more thorough investigation of the security situation facing the settlers is needed and therefore the council asked security heads to refrain from meeting with IDF officers and submitting proposals to them.

"We are responsible for the safety of our residents and the map relates to communities whose master plans could be compromised, as much is left to the interpretation by the Palestinian Authority," she said.

Settlers warned that the safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza will allow Palestinians to travel freely on roads, and that the area under total Palestinian control

will be six times larger.

Meanwhile, settlers continue quietly taking over vacant hilltops in areas under their communities' jurisdiction, but not always included in the individual community's overall master plans. Mobile homes have been set up in several communities over the past three weeks, hothouses erected, and strips of land for agricultural use have been ploughed.

Civil Administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said that supervision units monitor construction by Palestinians and Israelis. If the work is illegal, the units inform headquarters.

See SETTLEMENT, Page 4

## Shas-Vizhnitz meeting bodes haredi changes

By SARAH HONIG

Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef made history yesterday - he went down from his Jerusalem home to Bnei Brak to call on Vizhnitzer Rebbe Moshe Hager. This, according to haredi pundits, may have

marked the beginning of a significant political friendship.

Vizhnitz is the second largest haredi court after Gur and the Vizhnitzer rebbe had served as chairman of Agudat Yisrael's Council of Torah Sages. Any alliance between Vizhnitz and

Shas is bound to be of considerable importance in haredi politics.

Shas and the Vizhnitz court have been cooperating in the present local elections and Yosef's visit yesterday marks a public acknowledgement and formalization of what has till now been an ad hoc tie.

What Aguda and Shas watchers were in disagreement about last night, however, is just what sort of an alliance we are witnessing. There are those who claim that the Ashkenazi Vizhnitz haredim are about to break away from the Aguda framework and actually merge into the Sephardi Shas.

See SHAS, Page 4

Correction: The Hebrew ballot letters for Yossi Tal-Or's list for Jerusalem City Council, *Yesh Atid*, which appeared in Friday's *Jerusalem Post* should have read: *למנוחה שלום*

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

**RUTH SAGHER**  
née Dostrovsky

The funeral will leave the new cemetery at Givat Shaul at 1 p.m. today.

The Family

סדרה מן האמל



## Kahalani, Suissa warn against election fraud

By NINA GILBERT

Interior Minister Eli Suissa and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani warned yesterday that they would take "serious and speedy steps" against those who attempt to commit voting fraud in today's local elections.

Police say they have received detailed information about plans to try to commit election fraud. Suissa warned that people who changed their address and then vote in a location where they do not reside can earn a three-year prison sentence. Such action constitutes grounds for disqualifying results.

Voter turnout is not expected to be greater than 45 percent, compared with 56% in the 1993 elections, the Union of Local Authorities said yesterday. But a poll conducted over the weekend found that 71 percent of the public intends to

vote today.

The survey, conducted by the Marketing Information-CI research institute, noted, however, that in practice voter turnout will be lower due to personal conflicts, such as work and errands, which prevent people from making it to the polls. This factor is compounded by the fact that local election day is not a national holiday, compared with elections for the Knesset and prime minister, the institute noted.

Authority head Adi Eldar warned that unless citizens exercise their voting rights, they risk turning the democratic process to the sole benefits of politicians and special interest groups.

Despite the fact that the actions of local authority officials have more impact than MKs on the lives of citizens, especially in areas of education and quality of life, voter turnout is much greater for the Knesset elections, and stands at

some 70 percent, Eldar noted.

The survey has also found that only 33 percent of the public know about all of the candidates who are running in their local elections for either mayor or city council.

The survey also found that 53% of the public know some of the candidates, while 14% don't know any of them. The poll was conducted over the weekend among 507 Jewish adults, with a 4.4 percent margin of error.

At the same time, 80% of those polled know that today is election day, while 7% were unsure of the date and 13% did not know about the elections at all.

Meanwhile, the Likud Party said yesterday that it filed a complaint with the police over the hanging of obituary notices announcing the supposed death of its Kiryat Ono mayoral candidate, Shlomo Ben-Amra.

## PA calls for boycott in Jerusalem

By ELI WOHLGELER and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The Palestinian Authority has called on Jerusalem Arabs to boycott today's municipal elections, saying it considered participation as treason which would weaken the PA's position in final status negotiations over the city.

Faisal Hussein, who holds the PA Jerusalem portfolio, told the Voice of Palestine yesterday that a national and political position was more important than the daily

problems of east Jerusalem Arabs. "The west Jerusalem municipality is a representative of the 'occupation,' and we do not elect a representative of the 'occupation,'" he said.

Legislative Council member Hatem Abdul Qader (Fateh), from Jerusalem gave another reason to boycott elections. "I fear Israel will take advantage of Palestinians participating in these elections to confiscate identity cards," he said.

The small PLO opposition party, the Popular Front for the

Liberation of Palestine, called for a commercial strike as well as a boycott.

Daoud Telhimi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, proposed forming an unofficial Palestinian municipal council.

Hussein implied that the Palestinians might do this if Israel procrastinated on implementing the Wye accords.

Palestinian sources in Jerusalem said that some cars which were

carrying election propaganda had their windows broken by stones in east Jerusalem yesterday.

Jewish opponents of incumbent mayor Ehud Olmert said they felt buoyed by public opinion.

"I have a much better feeling than is indicated by the polls," mayoral candidate Shimon Shetret said last night. "My feeling is that we are going to get the support of the people. Today I think it is possible to force Olmert (if he gets less than 40% of the vote) to a second round."



An Interior Ministry official prepares ballot boxes for distribution yesterday at the Jerusalem International Convention Center. (Shem-Tov/Harari)

## A voter's guide

By AMY KLEIN and NINA GILBERT

Some 3,830,000 people are eligible to vote today in municipal elections throughout the country, choosing 161 mayors or local council heads and 2,800 council members. The polls will be open today from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.

All schools that do not have polling stations will be open.

All registered voters are eligible to vote, even if they have not received voter's cards due to the Interior Ministry strike, the ministry said yesterday.

Voters can still find their polling stations by calling the ministry's hot line between 8 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. at 1-800-200-130. There is a hot line for English speakers at 1-800-200-135.

Only those who had an identity card by May 1 have the right to vote. Permanent and temporary residents who have an ID card can vote.

Due to the recent sanctions, the government has decided to allow voters to confirm their identity at polling stations with an ID card - even if it does not have the printed appendix with personal details - a passport, or a driver's license with a photo.

Soldiers can vote with their military IDs, either at their home polling stations or base.

### How to vote

Upon signing in at the polling station, the voter receives two

envelopes - yellow for mayor and white for city council, corresponding to slips of those colors with the names of the mayoral candidates and letter codes for the city council lists. Be sure to put the yellow slip in the yellow envelope and the white slip in the white one. Envelopes with more than one slip will be invalidated, even if the slips are for the same candidate or list. Slips with markings of any sort will also be disqualified. Upon exiting the voting booth, put both envelopes in the ballot box.

### How it works

Mayoral elections are like the new direct-election system for prime minister, in that there are two separate ballots. A mayoral candidate must receive a minimum of 40 percent of the vote, or a run-off election will be held in two weeks between the top two candidates.

Council seats will be divided proportionally by the number of voters.

Only those lists which garner a minimum of 75% of one seat will be involved in the distribution of council seats. Those lists that do not meet the threshold will not receive a seat and their votes will be discarded.

Lists which have reached a surplus-vote agreement (where their percentage of seats are combined) are treated as one list during run-off election.



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## NEWS

in brief

### Histadrut employees strike over pay

1,800 Histadrut trade Union workers began striking yesterday after they failed to receive last month's salary and vowed to freeze talks concerning a recovery plan for the Histadrut calling for 600 redundancies until they are paid. Histadrut treasurer Shmuel Avital said he warned last month that if the recovery plan was not completed, salaries would be delayed. *Itim*

### Gov't must explain not updating health basket

The High Court of Justice yesterday instructed the state to explain within 45 days why it isn't updating the basket of health services as recommended by the National Health Council. The hearing, headed by Justice Yitzhak Zamir, involved the Maccabi Health Fund's claims that the aging of the population and the introduction of new drugs and technologies made it impossible for the health funds to bear the costs without getting more money from the Treasury. Meanwhile, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza warned Maccabi to provide members with in-vitro fertilization treatments, since they are included in the basket of services. A few months ago, Maccabi halted payments for IVF, saying it couldn't afford them. *Judy Siegel*

### Eitan: Closing Ramat Hovav still an option

The Environment Ministry is continuing to examine the possibility of closing the Ramat Hovav toxic waste site and developing an alternative site in the Negev, either at Oron or close to Shivta, minister Rafael Eitan said yesterday. Speaking to the Knesset Interior and Environment Committee, Eitan said the Ramat Hovav Regional Council opposes the Shivta option. The fire which broke out at Ramat Hovav in August exposed "problems of improper management," Eitan said. *Liat Collins*

### Channel 2 wants METV barred from cable

The three Channel 2 franchisees - Telad, Reshet, and Keshet - have asked the High Court of Justice to bar cable companies from making Middle East TV available to their subscribers. The three contend that its new, commercial format has turned METV into an Israeli pirate TV station. The Communications Ministry has authorized the cable companies to provide METV, and the Channel 2 franchisees want that authorization revoked. *Itim*

### Livnat promises a computer in every home

Communications Minister Limor Livnat announced yesterday a government initiative to help every family in Israel buy a computer. She said at the opening of the Telecom '98 exhibition in Tel Aviv that she had already won prime ministerial approval for the project, and was talking with the Treasury to discuss implementation. "The assimilation of computers and the Internet into all families' daily lives, must become a national priority, the result of which will be a marked rise in our collective quality of life. We want to arrive at a situation where every girl and boy will know how to use a computer." *Nicky Blackburn*

### Israeli-Jordanian film premiers at Knesset

*Abraham's Odyssey*, the first film coproduction between Israel and Jordan, premiered at the Knesset yesterday in the presence of representatives of the Jordanian, Egyptian, and Turkish embassies, scores of Israeli schoolchildren, and several from the Palestinian Authority. Alex Ansky, the Israeli star of the film, sent greetings to King Hussein and good wishes for his health to be fully restored. The film which took three years to make, is an attempt to illustrate the common heritage of Jews and Moslems. *Greer Fay Cashman*



Britain's Duke of Kent places a skullcap on his head as he enters the Hall of Remembrance at Yad Vashem yesterday. (AP)

## PMO miffed by 'rude' royal

By news agencies

An official in the Prime Minister's Office said yesterday that the failure of the Duke of Kent to request a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu was "rude, but we don't care." The sour note was sounded after the first British royal to visit Israel in an official capacity said Queen Elizabeth II would "love to come if the opportunity arose." During this three-day stay the duke was scheduled to meet with President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. However, no meeting was scheduled with Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. *Ha'aretz* reported yesterday that Netanyahu's office was "amazed" the duke did not request a meeting with the prime minister. However, British Ambassador Frances Cornish told the AP that the duke had not intended to snub

Netanyahu.

"The visit is a trade visit," the ambassador said. "He has paid a long courtesy call to President Weizman and will pay a courtesy call to Chairman Arafat." The duke said his trip to Israel "means a lot to me because I think the achievements of this country have been so remarkable in these 50 years... Also, this is a particularly interesting time, clearly." At least three top members of the British royal family have made private visits to Israel. Prince Charles attended Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's funeral in November 1995. Also in 1995, Princess Margaret visited Israel during a visit to Jordan. In 1994, the queen's husband, the Duke of Edinburgh, attended tree-planting ceremonies honoring his mother, Princess Alice of Greece, at Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial. The Duke of Kent is visiting as vice chairman of the British

Overseas Trade Board. Yesterday, he met with Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman. Today, he is to hold talks with Arafat and tour companies that do business with Britain in Ramallah. Earlier yesterday, the duke toured Yad Vashem and paused at Princess Alice's tree along the Avenue of the Righteous Among the Nations, which honors people who helped save Jews during the Holocaust. Princess Alice hid a Jewish family in her palace during World War II. Following his tour, the duke wrote in the Yad Vashem guest book: "I have been honored and deeply moved to view this memorial to the victims of persecution." The duke will also address the Israeli-British Chamber of Commerce and attend the Telecom Israel 1998 Exhibition. He is a cousin both of Queen Elizabeth and of her husband Prince Philip.

## Outcry over murder of soldier

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

President Ezer Weizman yesterday expressed shock at the murder of Jan Shafshovitz, a Russian immigrant soldier who was apparently stabbed to death for speaking Russian. "It's time we got accustomed to the fact that we have some 700,000 Russian immigrants who are contributing greatly to the state in every way. It's time to put an end to the ethnic tension," Weizman said. Shafshovitz, 22, was murdered in an Ashkelon restaurant where he and his twin brother were talking to each other in Russian. This apparently infuriated a group at a nearby table, which attacked the twins, stabbing Shafshovitz to death and wounding his brother. The murder has outraged Russian immigrants and Weizman, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and other public figures are trying to reduce the increasing tension between Russian immigrants and veteran communities. Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky asked Netanyahu and the members of Yisrael Ba'Aliya's Knesset faction to raise the issue at the Knesset plenum. MK Naomi Blumenthal, chairman of the Knesset's immigration committee, asked Weizman to hold a public debate on the issue and presented an urgent motion for the Knesset agenda. "Woe to us if we reach a situation in which there'll be a group

of Moroccans sitting here, a group of Russians sitting there, a group of Bulgarians and a group of Romanians, and they'll start cutting one another up. It's a terrible matter and it's time to put an end to it and start respecting one another," Weizman said. Netanyahu telephoned the Shafshovitz family yesterday and conveyed his and his wife's condolences. "I was shocked to hear of the atrocious attack. I understand your personal tragedy and feel your pain with the entire nation," he said. Sharansky visited the bereaved family's house in Ashkelon and said afterwards these were among the most difficult moments in his life. "The mother is crying all the time and holding a picture of her son, saying they took half my heart away," Sharansky said after the meeting. "She says they ran away from Russia because they didn't want their children to serve in the army there, that they came to live here as one nation," he said. Deputy Prime Minister and Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav also paid a condolence call on the Shafshovitz family yesterday. "Jan's murder because of his origin must send shock waves through Israeli society because this threatens the social fiber in the state. The law enforcement authorities must bring the culprits to trial, but beyond that we require intensive educational activity to denounce violence for racist or ethnic reasons," he said.

## Reports of selling Mikve Yisrael land 'science fiction'

By LIAT COLLINS

Reports of attempts by real estate developers to get hold of the highly lucrative land belonging to the Mikve Yisrael Agricultural School near Tel Aviv are "science fiction," according to Government Companies Authority director Tzipi Livni. Livni was talking at a meeting of the Knesset Interior and Environment Committee, which discussed a newspaper report that Education Minister Yitzhak Levy had appointed a director to the school board favorable to selling the land of the century-old school. Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan described plans to turn the school and its botanical gardens and fields into a modern, state-of-the-art agricultural training center to operate on both

a local and international level. Eitan, who opposes plans to sell the school grounds, said "Mikve Yisrael will be the last word in modern agricultural training together with the [agricultural research center] Volcani Institute." He did not rule out the possibility that some of the lands of the Volcani Institute would be sold if it could use the Mikve Yisrael site instead. "This is not to satisfy the wolves waiting to devour the land, but because Mikve [Yisrael] has a lot of land," he said. Livni noted there is a Mikve Yisrael Law which anchors its function and grounds in legislation. Ironically, this law might have to be changed for the school to go ahead with plans to be an international agricultural training center, as it refers only to education at the national level.

## Wording of settlement resolution stirs dispute at Zionist General Council

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A political row erupted yesterday evening at the Zionist General Council over wording of a resolution calling for support of expanded settlement "in Eretz Israel."

"The Zionist movement will be zealous in developing settlement and expanding the settlements

throughout Eretz Israel," said the resolution, which also called for greater support of Zionist education by the government. The bill, which was proposed by the Resolutions Committee with the support of World Likud, immediately drew heated opposition from Labor and Meretz participants, who insisted that "Eretz Israel" be

changed to "the state of Israel." However, those who proposed the bill refused to make changes, saying it had already been submitted in final form. Matti Drobliss, former head of the World Zionist Organization's Settlement Division, was chairing the session and insisted that a vote take place.

In the end, Jewish Agency chairman Abraham Burg announced that the resolution would be discussed by the Zionist Executive at one of its upcoming meetings, thus defusing the issue, a Jewish Agency spokesman said.

### SETTLEMENT

Continued from Page 2

Israel Radio reported yesterday that the IDF had divided the communities in Judea and Samaria according to priority, with some 15 communities - including Golan, Kadim, Bracha, Homesh, Beit El, Psagot, Beit Hagai, Otniel, Kiryat Arba, and Telem - considered first priority. Council sources said the plans include erecting concrete walls and electric fences, improving lighting, and adding additional patrols, paving additional security roads, fortifying guard towers, and construct buildings to be used as emergency headquarters if communities are attacked. The IDF Spokesman refused to divulge details stressing that the project is an additional step in preparing for further redeployment and had to receive government authorization. However Arutz 7 declared some 33 communities in Judea and Samaria will be directly affected by the second redeployment.

Settlements that will be affected during the first stage of implementation, the report said, are Bracha, Har Efraim, Homesh, Ganim, Kadim, Sanur, Beit El, Kochav Ya'acov, Ateret, Psagot, Har Gilo, Beit Hagai, Otniel, Telem, Kiryat Arba, and Hebron.

The second stage will affect Avnei Hefetz, Mevo Dotan, Enav, Elon Moreh, Migdalim, Yitzhar, Shavei Shomron, Nachiel, Ma'aleh Levona, Metzad, Ma'aleh Amos, Nokdim, Kedar, Karmel Tzur, Tekoa, Bnei Hever, and Adora.

### CYPRUS

Continued from Page 1

However, this would not be at the expense of ties with Turkey. Shumer pointed to the current visit in Israel of the Cypriot telecommunications minister and said that other ministerial visits would go forward as planned, as well as the visit of the president of the House of Representatives. Meanwhile, an unconfirmed report said last night that an Israeli lawyer had been sent to help defend the two arrested men, Udi Hargov, 37, and Yigal Damary, 49. The government has not denied that they were in Cyprus on behalf of the Mossad. The two also have a Cypriot lawyer, Kostas Demetriades, defending them. Despite optimistic forecasts in the Israeli media, Cypriot sources reportedly have hinted that this is a complex legal situation which will take time to resolve. The Cypriot press yesterday continued to play up the story, although there had apparently been behind-the-scenes requests to lower its profile. Israel's ties with Turkey - which many Cypriots see as the main beneficiary from any Israeli intelli-

gence gathered - are widely condemned by all circles in Cyprus. Saturday's arrest of Hargov and Damary came three days after Weizman had assured Cypriotes that the military alliance with Turkey is not aimed at Cyprus. A statement by the Justice Ministry in Nicosia on Sunday evening said that nothing had transpired yet to link the two to any Israeli government agency. The statement was criticized yesterday by the Cypriot media, AP reported. This prompted a series of clarifying remarks by various Cypriot officials. Justice Minister Nicos Koshis said, "The two will not be released or deported before a thorough investigation," and government spokesman Christos Stylianides noted the ministry's statement referred to the investigation "until that moment and does not rule out anything." Defense Minister Yiannakis Omirou said that Cyprus is concerned by the military alliance between Israel and Turkey, which includes an exchange of information. If the two arrested Israelis are Mossad agents, "this will create a grave political issue and have serious repercussions," he said.

### SHAS

Continued from Page 2

Others suggest that this indicates a possible Shas-Aguda axis. At its inception Shas was the creation of Degel Hatorah spiritual leader Rabbi Eliezer Schach. The Ashkenazi, but non-hassidic Degel Hatorah was then in stiff competition with the largely Ashkenazi, but hassidic, Aguda.

The motive for establishing Shas was to a large degree to pry away Sephardi support from Aguda. Yesterday's visit does in the end yield an alliance of sorts it will be a strange reconciliation between formerly bitter political foes or a break-up of Aguda. In any event, the talk in Shas is that the party is growing ambitious and moving beyond the narrow confines of the Sephardi community.



State of Israel  
Ministry of the Interior

### National Supervisor of Elections Announcement to Voters and Voting Station Personnel Regarding Additional Means of Identification for the Local Authority Elections

- A. Due to the sanctions employed during the past few weeks by Interior Ministry personnel, the Government has decided on emergency regulations which will allow voters in the coming Local Authority Elections to identify themselves to the voting stations committees by means of ONE of the following documents (in addition to an identity card):
1. Valid Israeli passport
  2. Valid Israeli driving license
  3. Soldiers in regular service and the permanent army can use their IDF cards for identity purposes (at both IDF and civilian voting stations)
  4. Policemen and prison officers may use their police ID cards or prison personnel ID cards.
- All the above means of identification are acceptable and each one can serve for purposes of identification.
- B. Each of the identifying documents must bear the owner's photo and include the page on which the name and identity number appear.
- C. A foreign passport or driving license may not be used for identification or voting purposes, but only an ISRAELI passport or driving license.
- D. In addition to these supplementary means of identification, the Minister of the Interior has published regulations abolishing the need to present the appendix of an identity card, i.e., a voter will be allowed to cast his ballot even if the identity card he shows the voting station committee lacks the appendix.
- E. The regulations abolish the need for having a stamp, attesting that a voter has cast his ballot, affixed to the identifying document, and thus in the coming elections, the voting station committee will not stamp "voted" on the identity card or other identifying document.
- This makes it doubly important for the voting station committee to delete the voter's name from the list of voters after he has cast his ballot, and this deletion will serve as sole proof that the voter has already used his right to vote.
- F. These regulations will be in effect in the elections for the heads of local authorities, as well as in the second rounds of these elections, where such take place.

Ehud Shilat, Advocate  
National Supervisor of Elections

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Students begin an open-ended hunger strike outside the prime minister's residence yesterday in Jerusalem. They vowed to go all the way to win demands for lower tuition. The sign at left rear reads: 'My mother's not a money machine.' (Brian Heidler)

## Students launch hunger strike

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Amid boxes of bottled water and mattresses, several dozen students launched an open-ended hunger strike outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem yesterday afternoon, vowing they would leave only "on a stretcher or in victory."

Hunger-strikers were to drink water and hot drinks, but organizers asked participants and supporters not to bring any food to the site. Dozens of other students were to join their colleagues in a sit-down strike at the spot to further press their demands for a 50% reduction in tuition, increased student loans, and improved student services, including more dormitory space.

"The student claims will increase social gaps," Finance Minister Yankov Neeman told a meeting in Tel Aviv where he was interrupted by students shouting "take the money from yeshivot," "take the money from settlements."

Treasury-student negotiations were renewed in the afternoon, with the participation of the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Moshe Leon.

"It's no more 'Yakov, resign,' from now on it's 'Bibi, wake up,' student struggle leader Yoav Heller said as he prepared the hunger-strikers for their task.

"You go on a hunger strike when you say: I've taken certain drastic steps, and no one among the decision-makers paid attention to us," Heller said.

"We demonstrated, blocked intersections, sent thousands into the streets, we've been beaten, we've been accused of indirectly causing a terrorist attack... And yesterday while we were sitting with the finance minister, he argued with us over the number of students who demonstrated. He's not even discussing tuition with us."

"So it's clear that they simply aren't picking up what we're saying, which is why we student leaders decided: Enough. From here on in, we are going to stop eating. And if what the government needs is students dying of hunger in front of their eyes, then I don't know what will influence them."

"Bibi, you need to quickly understand what's going on right here under you, and quickly solve the problem."

Busloads of students and other supporters, including Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, stopped by periodically to offer

encouragement as the 2:30 deadline for starting the hunger-strike approached.

Yael Cole, who works two jobs and tutors to support her studies, said: "I'm prepared to go all the

way, to sit here and do everything necessary, to take a radical, drastic step. But I'm ready to do it because it's important enough for me to fight to the end, especially if gets them to open their eyes."

## A watered-down tactic

Barking instructions in crisp, military terms, student struggle leader Yoav Heller sounded yesterday like he was preparing a crack regiment to head into battle rather than a group of several dozen hunger-strikers outside the prime minister's residence.

"From 2:30, there's no food," Heller explained, as passing cars honked support. "Whoever starts doesn't stop. It includes drinking water and hot drinks only. Whoever goes on hunger-strike does so for a greater goal, but on their own responsibility. We consulted with doctors and there is no danger of doing any real damage, certainly not for the first week. But we don't have an insurance policy."

"Anyone who's hunger-striking stays here. If people just can't continue anymore, we'll replace them with other people."

While the student hunger-strike might not have been quite as radical as others witnessed abroad, the mood was no less serious. "Maybe the feeling should be sadder because we're going into something heavy and difficult, but everyone here must feel great pride," Heller said. "The young generation is waking up, feel proud you're starting something difficult, and that the only way we leave here is on a stretcher."

As night began to fall, guitars, newspapers and cigarettes were passed around the tent, which began to resume a reserve-duty outpost. The hunger-strikers checked in, then settled down in the tent, where they were visited by well-wishers and friends.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

## Argentine Jews hit hard by bank crisis

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The bankruptcy of Argentina's two largest Jewish-owned banks has created a "social and economic crisis" in the Jewish community, with many Jews wiped out financially, according to a special report prepared by a Jewish Agency Aliya Department emissary.

The Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee is scheduled to hold a special session on the crisis in two weeks.

"The Israeli government cannot remain quiet in light of these serious developments and must find a quick solution to the crisis the Jews of Argentina are facing, and to create a fitting alternative for bringing them here," committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal said this week.

The two banks are Banco de Mayo, which was headed by Dr. Reuven Beraja, president of the main Jewish political organization in Argentina, the DAIA, and a

leader of the Argentine Jewish community; and Banco de Patricios.

According to the report, the community's ability to maintain vital institutions is in jeopardy, and funds received recently by the local Jewish community for rehabilitation of institutions after the terrorist bombings in Argentina has been lost in the bank closure.

There have been increasing instances of antisemitic articles in the local press, the report says, with some believing that Argentine President Carlos Menem is using the crisis to try to draw attention away from the economic crisis there.

The crisis has left a significant number of middle-class Jewish families destitute, and the situation is expected to worsen, the report states.

Besides serving as chairman of the DAIA, Beraja's bank also gave the majority of financial support to clubs, synagogues, philanthropic

organizations and cultural bodies, including loans they will now be unable to repay without selling their assets.

The economic crisis is expected to lead to an increase in aliyah from Argentina, which has a Jewish population of some 225,000, especially by families who can no longer afford to send their children to Jewish schools and those facing severe financial difficulties.

However, the immigrants will require substantial financial assistance, since the report says those arriving sometimes have only a few hundred dollars to their name.

"If two bombs placed under the Jewish community in Argentina did not push people to draw appropriate conclusion and take steps towards Israel, we are all agreed that the 'third explosion' hitting the community directly in its pocket will push the Jews of Buenos Aires into considering the possibility of aliyah," the report says.

## Egyptian claims of 'Dakar' sinking dismissed

By ARYEH O'SULLIVAN

Recent reports from Egypt that a senior Egyptian navy officer was saying they sank the submarine *Dakar* in 1968 were viewed with skepticism here.

Vice-Adm. Mohammed Weili, commander of Egyptian naval training, was quoted in the latest edition of *Al-Ahram* as saying that the Egyptian navy was responsible for the sinking of the *Dakar*, which went missing along with all 69 sailors on its maiden voyage from England. The vice admiral was quoted as saying that the sub was sunk on January 25, 1968.

In a similar report last year, retired Egyptian admiral Abed Hamid Azab claimed he had witnessed the sinking of the *Dakar* off Alexandria. Azab said his ship chased a submarine into treacherous currents and it disappeared in the tilt.

But Adm. (res.) Micha Ram, a former OC Navy, said then that the

incident didn't involve the *Dakar* but another sub, which slipped away. Asked about the new Egyptian report yesterday night, Ram said that he no longer wanted to speak of the topic.

But Capt. (res.) Mike Eldar, author of a book on the *Dakar*, did not totally dismiss the Egyptian account. In his book, Eldar said there is increasing evidence that shortly before its disappearance, the *Dakar* changed course for Egyptian waters. It was carrying a piece of equipment that was supposed to detect enemy radar systems, and the commander may have decided to test it, he said.

"The story of the Egyptians sinking the *Dakar* first came up in the 1970s and it is repeated from time to time," Eldar said in a telephone interview. He said the claim was based on an incident in which the Egyptian navy was training with sonar off the coast of Alexandria the day the *Dakar* disappeared and claimed to have

picked up a submarine. The Egyptians attacked the target with depth charges, apparently without result.

Eldar said the Soviet technicians with them dismissed the Egyptian claims they picked up something on the radar. But the data was sent to the Soviet Union for analysis and they claimed the Egyptians were correct. But like Ram, Eldar the incident involved a different vessel.

Last month, OC Navy Adm. Alex Tal said that the reward offered for information on the missing sub did not draw a flood of response, but it did provide new information. One report of a sunken vessel in the Mediterranean was checked and the wreck was located, but it wasn't the *Dakar*. He said the navy is now examining new information from a foreign archeological institute. He declined to name the country, but it is presumed to be Greece.

## CAMPAIGN

Continued from Page 1

"The level of violence has crossed all boundaries," Interior Minister Eli Suissa was quoted as saying over the weekend.

The situation is such that, for the first time, polling places will be guarded today not by soldiers, but by policemen - a move Suissa attributed to the need to provide more protection at the ballot box.

"In these elections," said Almog, "we have seen an expression of the growing individualization of the society. In the past, the party was dominant, but today it is not significant. Today, the personality of the candidate is what is significant - you have competition between individuals, not parties."

One of the byproducts of this change, he said, is violence. "When the competition is personal, there are no restraints from the party. The unprecedented violence during this campaign shows that in this society you need to use violence to achieve something, and there is no strong reaction against violence in our society."

The vast increase in parties and candidates, Almog said, is a function of a decline of the Zionist

ethos. "You see increased globalization, coupled with increased localization, all over the world," he said. "What has declined is a national orientation, which you see here in the decline of the Zionist culture. When the national orientation declines, it is clear that the person will concentrate more on his own immediate territory."

And the "immediate territory" is where these elections were fought, over issues like sewers, garbage collection, education, and culture. Roni Rimmon, a Tel Aviv-based political consultant who managed the campaign of Likud mayoral hopeful Moshe Rom in Holon, said that with the possible exception of Jerusalem, ideology played "no role whatever" in the municipal campaigns.

The multiplicity of parties, he said, was not due to any ideological differences between candidates. After all, how much ideology is involved in cleaning the streets?

"What people argued about are small things, personal things - one member of the list didn't get his rightful place, and starts his own list 'to show the other side,'" Rimmon said.

The resulting plethora of lists, he said, may be good for democracy,

but it is bad for the efficient running of government. "If a council of 24 people is made up of 10 lists, that may be very democratic, but it is not an efficient way to govern."

Almog maintained that the emphasis on local issues not only signals the death of ideology, but also the birth of a higher standard of living, where issues like cleanliness, ecology, and education become important.

"This is a function of a high standard of living," he said. "When you are on a low standard of living, you deal with the grand, big questions. But when there is materialism, you become interested in the questions that impact on you directly."

While Almog refers to the startling multiplicity of candidates as individualization, former Civil Service commissioner Yitzhak Galnoor calls it factionalism - the splitting of society into tiny factions, timier, even, than tribes.

"The elections," he said, "show that everyone wants what is good for himself. The social solidarity that was once there is gone."

According to Almog, this "want-



ing what is good for oneself" was apparent during this election in the very literal sense of the expression. "Many people are running today because the head of a local council, or a council member, is seen as an outstanding job," Almog said. "You make contacts with people that you can use later."

Since the threshold needed to get into the councils are so low, often all that is needed is a thousand votes to get a seat.

"You saw a lot more younger candidates this time around," Almog said. "Age barriers don't play a role. The feeling is that if the US can elect a president who is in

his 40s, I can be mayor at 25."

Ultimately, said Yaron Ezrahi, a Hebrew University political science professor, this campaign shows that direct elections is a system that personalizes responsibility, yet encourages deals that are not constrained by principles.

"This process," he said, "tends to break the population into sectors, rather than emphasize the responsibility of all the candidates to all the sectors."

In this case, he said, the direct elections have not enhanced the responsiveness of the leaders. "What goes out the window is equality," he said. "Those who are responsible for making the deals represent narrow constituencies, and they will reap the benefits. The politics of direct election limits the political incentives of the mayor to use resources to support the constituencies that did not vote for him."

In other words, the system perpetuates the phenomenon in which those closer to the pitcher get the lion's share of the milk. The sheer number of candidates shows that this lesson has been learned well, and a desire to get closer to the pitcher has spawned scores of new lists, and given birth to dozens of mayoral candidates.

Full coverage of today's elections in tomorrow's Jerusalem Post.



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

## NOTICE ON ELECTION FREEDOM, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTEGRITY

In accordance with clause 16 of the Election Law (election propaganda methods) 1959, we hereby inform the voting public that at elections to local councils which will take place on November 10, 1998 they are entitled to vote freely in accordance with their conscience for one of the lists of candidates approved for the authority's council and for one of the candidates approved to head the authority. Voting in the elections is confidential. The Ministry of the Interior, the polling officer and the election committee in each local authority have taken suitable steps to ensure this confidentiality.

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The law stipulates severe penalties for corruption in connection with the elections, interference with the election proceedings and illegal voting, including giving or offering bribes in order to influence voting; accepting or agreeing to accept bribes in connection with their vote; promising a voter work or preventing him from receiving work or threatening dismissal in order to persuade the voter to vote for a specific candidate or to prevent the voter from voting in a specific way; interfering with proper voting procedures; interfering with a person voting or preventing him from voting; presenting another person's identity card to the election committee instead of his/her own identification and voting more than once.

The law also imposes severe penalties on anyone informing the Population Registrar at the Ministry of the Interior that he has transferred his residence to a locality where he is not resident, while being aware that the information is incorrect, and in the wake of the false address change votes in a locality where he is not resident.

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Minister of the Interior and Religious Affairs

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**TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS**



## Goodbye, Newtie!

It's a funny old world. I observed Margaret Thatcher ruefully on the day her own Conservative Party ousted her as its leader. One of her American admirers has now followed in her footsteps, and no doubt echoes the sentiment.

House Speaker Gingrich is a funny old character. There have been times when it was hard to dislike him, other times when loathing seemed the only appropriate emotion he could elicit. He once made a successful cameo appearance on *Murphy Brown* ("Hello, Newtie!"), acting wonderfully and mocking his own illiberalism — on this most famous of Republican-bashing sitcoms, which Dan Quayle once crashed into and was left bleeding on the political highway.

Newt could charm everyone by flashing his grin or playing with reptiles like some boy who never grew up. But also like some boy who never grew up, he could throw tantrums, sulk and be as viciously nasty and mean as any schoolyard bully.

### Low noon

Commentators delighted in the way an arch-political manipulator like Thatcher could be toppled by arch-political manipulation. Now they are delighting in a Gingrich forced out for political incompetence by Republicans he led to stunning victories four years ago.

Intelligent Democrats are not among those gloating over his departure — they leave that to his colleagues. Americans love nothing better than high-noon face-offs in politics, black hat versus white hat.

For Democrats, Newt was the ideal villain, a worthy punch-bag, someone almost as good to kick around as Richard Nixon. He appeared like a tough adversary for the Clinton White House, yet he had two wonderful advantages: He had become gloriously unpopular with the people (polling an 18 percent approval rating just before last week's election), and he always ended up making pretty satisfactory deals. Despite all his blather, he retained a school-boyish awe of the White House — "Look Mom, I'm talking to the President of the United States."

Gingrich became a peevish problem only when his vanity was offended, most famously during the government shut-down budget battle. He admitted he had acted out of anger in opposing the White House because Bill Clinton had not invited him to the front seats of Air Force One on the flights to and from Israel for the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin.

### Closet moderate

It was an astonishing admission for the House Speaker to make in the middle of a government crisis, reinforcing old clichés about the mean-spirited and narrow-

minded political Right. After that, Newt's popularity ratings rarely popped above knee level.

Maybe Newt has sounded so shrill when he is being a right-wing radical because at heart he has been a cozy moderate all along. He did first run for the House in Georgia in 1974 as a moderate and an environmentalist. He lost to a more conservative Democrat. In 1978, retooled as a full-fledged conservative, Newt won the seat. These were days when Republican congressmen from Georgia were rare birds indeed. It may be part of Gingrich's brief legacy that he helped fix the South in the national consciousness as Republican territory for the first time since the Civil War.

But the 1978 victory woke up Gingrich's latent arrogance, and soon the former moderate ecologist was lashing out at Republican leaders for being too soft when it came to making deals with the majority Democrats. He hoisted his "conservative opportunity" flag and declared war on liberalism, its welfare-state mentality and its creeping infection of true Republicanism.

Playing to the street rather than to the members, he delivered dragon's breath speeches to the House cameras. He leveled ethics charges against House Speaker Jim Wright that eventually forced him to quit, easing Gingrich into the No. 2 slot in the House pecking order. When House Minority Leader Bob Michel retired at the 1994 election, Gingrich moved up to the top Republican spot.

### Get that rabbit!

Newt's glory days were upon him. Riding on what looked like a brilliant, new manifesto of the Right, the Contract with America, Republicans swept to their first majority in decades, and Gingrich landed his dream job: speaker of the house.

The Contract soon proved as hollow as a used-car deal, and in 1995 the Republicans shut down the government, assuming the wishy-washy Clinton would cave in. The gentleman from Georgia disastrously overestimated his skills against the Houdini from Arkansas. Not for the first or last time, and against all Republican calculations, the public stuck loyally by Clinton, and it was Gingrich's popularity that plunged, never again to recover.

In his final miscalculation, which was almost glorious in its cartoonish ineptitude, Newt tried to bring down the Democrats last week by campaigning on the Bill and Monica scandal.

For a second time in four years, Newt had done more to boost the president and the Democrats than any living Democrat could have done. Like Wiley Coyote, he blew his own feet off with his own gunpowder. Goodbye Newtie! It's been fun, and the White House will really miss you.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

# A ghoulish pursuit of funds?

Taking advantage of the misfortunes of the famous is increasingly seen as an essential part of propelling a worthy cause into the public consciousness

By JUDITH HAVEMANN

Late last month, as she was sitting in her Epilepsy Foundation office sifting through a stack of mail, Cindy Brownstein caught a single electrifying word in a radio bulletin about Florence Griffith Joyner: an autopsy found the three-time Olympic gold champion had died of a "seizure." It was a telling diagnosis for people familiar with epilepsy, and it pushed acting chief executive officer Brownstein into action. She dashed into a meeting of foundation executives gathered in a nearby room to announce the news and, within minutes, the foundation mobilized.

It found a medical expert to appear on *Good Morning America* and solemnly describe the "electrical brainstorms" that affect 2.5 million people like Griffith Joyner. It started blitzing the country with a press release urging women to speak out about the discrimination they face from a disease that caused the "untimely death" of an Olympic athlete. It instructed a media consultant to incorporate the news into interviews being arranged with radio stations all over the country. It prepared a video news release for transmission to every TV station in America.

In the highly competitive world of health charities, the tragic death of the flamboyant "Flo-Jo" offered the low-profile Epilepsy Foundation something rare and priceless: a moment when the nation's interest homed in on a disease that is rarely the focus of much attention.

The scramble by the nation's vast array of health charities to utilize the misfortunes of the famous may seem tasteless, almost ghoulish, to the uninitiated. But taking advantage of such events — whether it's actor Christopher Reeve's paralysis or former President Reagan's Alzheimer's disease — is increasingly seen as an essential part of propelling a worthy cause into the public consciousness.

FROM the trenches of the charitable world, the public's interest in a particular cause is crucial, not only to generate private contributions but also to raise the prospects of obtaining federal funds for research. Yet any philanthropy that has watched the rise and fall of its donor base knows that public visibility can seem arbitrary and capricious. It is tethered to what marketers on Madison Avenue call "buzz": popularity, excitement, news events, stricken celebrities and strategic activism.

The consequences of having a charitable world so linked to public whims are huge: it means that the money donated to save lives often is unrelated to the actual health toll of a particular disease.

When donors write checks for breast-cancer research, they may not realize that prostate cancer affects as many people, but has attracted only a fraction of the



The tragic death of the flamboyant 'Flo-Jo' offered the Epilepsy Foundation something rare and priceless: a moment when the nation's interest turned to a disease that rarely receives media attention. (AP)

money. When people donate money for indigent AIDS victims, they may not know that the uninsured who suffer from diabetes, for example, receive far less help.

"There are waves of public support," said Joe Manes, senior account executive at A.B. Data, a Washington direct-mail consulting firm that assists charitable causes in their fund raising. "It can come because a celebrity gets involved, or a major news story occurs, or after a big charity benefit. But the public has a microwave mentality — 'Isn't that done yet?' Then the wave disappears."

Judged by political and donor reaction, AIDS and breast cancer are the hottest diseases of recent years, although fund raising has fallen off slightly for some of the nation's 18,000 AIDS groups since

new drugs have reduced the death rate. Alzheimer's disease has warmed up considerably following the announcement three years ago that Reagan is suffering from the condition.

Dogged work, single-minded dedication, public-relations savvy, expensive professional expertise, and sometimes a bit of luck are behind many health charities' success at capturing public interest.

UNTIL the day that Christopher Reeve was hurled from a horse and paralyzed on Memorial Day weekend three years ago, the American Paralysis Association had been one of several small regional charities that raised money to help find a cure for the spinal-cord injuries that have paralyzed 250,000 Americans.

Reeve moved next door to the association's New Jersey headquarters soon after the accident to undergo rehabilitation, and his brother asked the association for information. The group, unusually subdued by public-relations standards, hesitated to ask him for help. Fortunately for them, Reeve volunteered.

Soon the association's phones were ringing off the hook. The take from the group's annual fundraiser, a black-tie dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York, rose from \$500,000 to \$1.2 million. Reeve agreed to star in a TV special called "Celebration of Hope" that raised \$250,000 in ticket sales alone. And the number of individual donors nearly quadrupled, from 1,727 to 6,237 last year.

Under Reeve's leadership — he is now the association's chairman — the organization has doubled its budget to \$5 million a year, with most of it being poured into research.

"You can't say every single dollar is directly attributable to Chris," said spokesman Wes Combs, "but you might be able to say that his having an accident resulted in increased publicity and focus on the issue, and has certainly created an increased number of donations both from corporations and individuals."

The actor, according to charitable consultants, offers a good example of how widespread and persistent publicity can propel a relatively traditional charity into the category of "hot." But a celebrity is not enough.

Success also requires concentrated work on the part of the philanthropy whose cause has fallen under the spotlight. When Reagan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in late 1994, donations to the Alzheimer's Association jumped 18 percent in the first year, 26 percent the next, and 28 percent last year.

"President Reagan put it on the radar screen of the American public," said Margaret C. Kirk, vice president for development of the Alzheimer's Association. "He helped humanize the disease."

That marked a beginning, but the association had to follow up. And it has been indefatigable in its efforts, mostly through direct mail. The organization has sent out millions of letters, some with personalized labels, some with high-quality greeting cards. The percentage of people responding to those mailings, said Kirk, is running several times what is typically expected when appeals are sent out to potential donors.

Robert Tigner, general counsel of the Association of Direct Response Fund-Raising Counsel, said direct-mail campaigns yield dramatically different results depending on how well they are conceived, positioned, tested, and run. Neither celebrity nor publicity is enough.

"It might get the envelope opened," he said, "but the transaction between the cause and the donor is considerably more artistic, if not mystical. It has to convey a compelling story of need, make the person feel as if they have done something by writing that check."

Alzheimer's now is one of the fastest-growing charities in America, according to a new survey by the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

Further proof that publicity is not enough comes from the same source as much of Alzheimer's success: Reagan. When he was diagnosed with colon cancer in 1985, the number of at-risk Americans who said they would get tested doubled overnight to 60 percent. But a year later the proportion getting the test dropped back to 30 percent, partly because there was no coordinated campaign to follow up with easily accessible tests. The public-relations opportunity had disappeared.

This fall, cancer activists used a national march on the Mall to raise the profile of cancer, enlisting retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, model Cindy Crawford and Queen Noor of Jordan to try to increase momentum for cancer research.

"Faddishness," said Diane Rabin, a management consultant who advises charities, "is part of American culture." That reality can also work against a charity, however, particularly when it's receding from the limelight.

FOR more than a decade, AIDS groups have been the envy of the charitable world. AIDS created "buzz." Since its discovery in 1981, donations climbed from zero to \$428 million in 1996, according to the National Center for Charitable Statistics. It won its own office in the White House, and Congress has approved billions of dollars for research.

But while AIDS' charitable success has vastly increased funding, it has also made other health groups envious and disgruntled. Moreover, long-time supporters are showing donor fatigue, with contributions to some AIDS groups dropping as much as 20 percent. As with most other commodities in the marketplace, AIDS is finding that it's almost impossible to stay "hot" forever.

The AIDS groups have attempted to meet the new challenges with fund-raising appeals to a wider donor base, by conducting focus groups to make sure the public is still with them, and by preparing detailed talking points to counter every charge of favoritism.

Now that AIDS is a "mature disease," said Gary Rose, a former lobbyist for AIDS Action in Washington, "it has to fight to keep up the buzz. Now, buzz is working for breast cancer."

(The Washington Post)

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## Livingston looks certain to win House Speaker's job

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Republican Rep. Christopher Cox of California dropped his bid to succeed US House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich yesterday, clearing the way for Rep. Bob Livingston of Louisiana to be selected for the top job in the House.

"The truth is that the vote is in and Bob Livingston is going to be our next speaker and I am withdrawing my name for that reason," Cox told ABC's *Good Morning America*.

Gingrich, architect of the so-called Republican revolution which swept the party to power in 1994, announced Friday he would not seek re-election as speaker and would soon leave Congress.

Livingston, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, had been preparing for Gingrich to step down in 2000 and so was ready with his announcement of his candidacy just hours before Gingrich quit.

While Cox's withdrawal seemed to settle the speakership race, Republicans upset with last Tuesday's election losses still planned to challenge at least two more of their party's leadership.

Cox said he had made more than 200 phone calls to the 223-member Republican conference in the past few days and mustered about 90 commitments of support against more than 110 for Livingston.

"We got to the point where we were having to start fighting for commitments... that kind of exercise protracted into the next week would have resulted in a very divided conference," he said on CBS's *This Morning*. "The country's message to Congress right now is stay off division and get onto the issues. We have to be unified."

Republicans lost five seats in last week's election — the first time since the Depression a party not in the White House lost seats in a mid-term election — and now hold only a 223-211 lead, over Democrats with one independent.

Gingrich was blamed by many Republicans for the loss. "It's very, very important for us not to push an election for speaker to the bitter end when we have a six vote majority in the House of Representatives," Cox said.

Livingston put off retiring from Congress when he thought Gingrich would step down in 2000, so he already had a head start over other Republicans for the job.

During the weekend two other Republicans — Rep. James Talent of Missouri and Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer of Texas — decided not to challenge him.

Livingston said on Sunday that Republicans must acknowledge that voters effectively rejected much of their conservative agenda in last Tuesday's election.

House Republicans meet next Wednesday to elect their leaders for the 106th Congress, which convenes in January.

## Warnings against extremism mark Kristallnacht anniversary

By ANNE THOMPSON

BERLIN (AP) — Warnings against a resurgent antisemitism colored ceremonies yesterday marking the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht — the "Night of Broken Glass" — when Nazi storm troopers burned and ransacked Jewish businesses and synagogues.

Ignatz Bubis, the leader of Germany's Jews, noted with alarm that ideas once considered extremist have become mainstream, pointing to a German author who says the media use Nazi atrocities to make Germans feel guilty about their past. Such "intellectual nationalism" gives comfort to right-wing extremists, Bubis told an audience of about 2,000 gathered in a Berlin synagogue.

The commemoration of Kristallnacht, when more than 1,300 synagogues were destroyed, has special significance this year as a new generation of leaders with no personal recollection of the Holocaust takes office.

Led by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, 54, the government returns next year to Germany's prewar capital, Berlin, seat of Hitler's dictatorship and the earlier Prussian military state.

Remarks by Bubis and others reflected concerns that the government's move and the generational change underscore a desire to return to "normality" — for some a Germany unburdened by guilt for the Holocaust — by overlooking the past.

Schröder attended yesterday's ceremony, whose speakers included German President Roman Herzog and Israeli Chief Rabbi Meir Lau, who recalled his imprisonment as a child in Buchenwald.

Punctuating concerns about a resurgence of antisemitism, tiny swastikas were found today scratched on a Star of David memorial in Berlin commemorating the mass deportation of the city's Jews to concentration camps (above).

Bubis's harshest criticism was aimed at a prominent German author, Martin Walser, who in a recent speech suggested the Holocaust and death camp images have been used to preserve a sense of guilt among Germans.

During a ceremony honoring Walser with the Frankfurt book fair peace prize, the 71-year-old writer, whose work examines how Germany can deal with the Nazi past, said he has learned to turn away from scenes of the Holocaust.

"This trend in Walser's speech can be clearly traced. The intellectual nationalism is growing and is not wholly free of an undercurrent of antisemitism," Bubis said. "Whenever someone who is counted among the spiritual elite of the nation makes such statements, they carry a weight of their own... It is certain that right-wing extremists will refer to Walser." The example underscored a theme in several of the speeches at the national commemoration at an eastern Berlin synagogue: Germans have not yet found the right way to preserve the memory of the Holocaust as a lesson for future generations.



Berlin police check a Holocaust monument on a city railway bridge yesterday on the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Three small swastikas were found scratched around the Magen David. (AP)

Walser and many talk about a "normality," Bubis said. "I don't know what they mean by that. For me, normality is to be a Jew and to be able to live in Germany again, [it means] that Jews are engaged in the business and political life of the republic and that we have a democracy of a kind that has not long existed on German soil."

"Normality" cannot mean that we supplant memory and live with a new antisemitism and new racism," Herzog urged the nation to find a way to remember the horrors of the night that presaged the Holocaust and the Nazis' pogrom of a "final solution" to murder Europe's Jews. "We shouldn't forget for one second that our children and their children don't have an idea any more of what a dictatorship, degradation, and mass annihilation really means, how all these horrors don't just befall a people all at once, and so how necessary it is to pay attention to the small signs at the beginning. And I'll say it again: I'm not sure if we've found the right way to prepare the successive generations for this fundamental necessity."

Chief Justice William Rehnquist on July 17 cleared the way for the testimony of the officers, and Starr then immediately summoned Clinton's top bodyguard and about a dozen current or former Secret Service officials. Starr's report to Congress in September on possible impeachable offenses cited the testimony of six current or former members of Clinton's Secret Service detail, who said Clinton spent time alone with Lewinsky.

## Court allows testimony by Clinton's guards

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Handing independent counsel Kenneth Starr a victory, the US Supreme Court yesterday refused to shield Secret Service officers from testifying about what they learned while protecting President Bill Clinton.

The court denied by a 7-2 vote an appeal by the Clinton administration seeking to create a "protective function privilege" for Secret Service officers who have been subpoenaed to testify before a federal grand jury.

Dissenting from the court's action, taken in a one-line order and not a ruling on the merits, were Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer, Clinton's only appointees on the nine-member tribunal.

Ginsburg said the issue was "grave" and that

the Supreme Court should make the final decision. Breyer agreed that the question was important, saying the president's safety requires the nearby presence of the agents to prevent assassination.

"A delicate relationship exists between the president and his privacy-intruding protectors, one that may be particularly sensitive to the trust that comes from knowing that what the agents learn in the course of their duties will never be made public," Breyer wrote in his eight-page dissent.

The case arose after Starr earlier this year issued a number of subpoenas demanding that Clinton's guards testify about what they saw or heard concerning Clinton's relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

A federal judge and then a US appeals court rejected the administration's claim that forcing the bodyguards to answer questions would undermine the special bond of trust they enjoy and would increase the risk of a presidential assassination.

Clinton spent time alone with Lewinsky.

## WORLD

in brief

### Criminal probe under way for apartheid abuse

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — President Nelson Mandela's ex-wife and two former generals implicated in apartheid-era human rights abuses are under criminal investigation, a prosecutor said yesterday. These statements were the clearest sign yet that the government would bring criminal cases against Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and others whom the Truth and Reconciliation Commission connected with killings and other right violations. The panel's report chronicles rights abuses committed by apartheid governments, as well as by the African National Congress and others fighting against the racist system. The commission can grant amnesty to those who admit their guilt and are found to have acted on political motives. Individuals who have not sought amnesty should be prosecuted, the report said.

### Pope gives money to Vatican workers

VATICAN CITY (AP) — After several celebrations of his 20th anniversary as pontiff, Pope John Paul II is marking the occasion with gifts of \$600 for each Vatican employee. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said Monday that the pope also asked that a "fitting sum" of money go to retired Holy See workers, but the exact amount wasn't mentioned. There are about 4,000 Vatican employees, including lay workers and clergy. The Vatican didn't say which fund the money would come from.

### Chicago firemen lose discrimination appeal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nine white Chicago firefighters who say they unlawfully were passed over for promotion in favor of blacks and Hispanics lost a Supreme Court appeal yesterday. The court, without comment, refused to revive a reverse-discrimination lawsuit in which the firefighters challenged as unjustified the city's affirmative-action plan. The dispute dates to 1973, when the federal government sued Chicago over allegedly discriminatory hiring and promotion in the city's fire department.

### Ventura says Clinton should get life in order

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Governor-elect Jesse Ventura, a former 115-kilo professional wrestler, slammed President Clinton on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday for meeting Monica Lewinsky in the White House rather than a motel and said Hillary Clinton should have stayed in Washington instead of campaigning for his opponent in Minnesota. "Bad things seem to happen when she leaves, so she'd be better off staying back at the White House and taking care of business there," he said.

## Taliban judge sets deadline for Bin Laden

KABUL (Reuters) — Afghanistan's Taliban movement yesterday set a November 20 deadline for the US to prove exiled Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden is a terrorist and said he would be cleared if it failed to do so.

"If there is no proof submitted against Bin Laden, then he is innocent. We cannot wait forever for this drama," the Taliban's chief justice, Noor Mohammed Saqil, told reporters.

"We will listen to both sides' statements," he said. "The one who makes the claims must present his witnesses and prove the case against the accused, otherwise he will fail."

Saqil promised the procedure would deliver "100 percent justice" according to the movement's strict interpretation of Islam's Sharia law.

Bin Laden is alleged to have masterminded the August bomb-

ings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania which killed hundreds, and has been living in Afghanistan as a "guest" of the Islamic militia.

The Taliban's senior spokesman, Wali Ahmad, said the movement would continue to refuse US requests for his extradition. "We will never give him up to a third party for trial or anything else," he told the independent Afghan Islamic Press.

The US has offered a reward of \$5 million for the arrest of Bin Laden and in August attacked what it said were Bin Laden training camps in south Afghanistan.

Saqil did not say what punishment Bin Laden might expect if found guilty by the Supreme Court. Justice by the Taliban, which swept to power in September 1996, has consisted largely of public floggings and amputations prescribed under Islamic law.

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## Taking a stand

If the local elections of 1998 project a common theme, it is of the waning importance of the two major national parties, Labor and Likud. On one level, it is natural and even welcome for local candidates to distance themselves from the major parties by running as independents and focusing on local issues. But for the parties themselves, this phenomenon warns of an ideological bankruptcy that is unhealthy for democracy.

In both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the major parties have been revealed to be all but irrelevant in the elections. After incumbent Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo announced he would not run for reelection, neither Labor nor the Likud jumped in to field candidates. Eventually, independent Ron Huldai convinced the local Labor Party to support him, while the Likud backed another independent, Daron Rubin. This race might have become a battle of the major parties through surrogates, but the local Likud branch jumped ship and backed Huldai when it became evident that Huldai was ahead in the polls.

In Jerusalem as well, party monikers have become entirely confused. The "Labor" candidate, Shimon Sheerit, heads Teddy Kollek's old independent list. Sheerit is supported by Labor leader Ehud Barak, but like the Likud in Tel Aviv, the local Labor branch (with Shimon Peres's blessing) has cut a deal with the expected winner, the Likud's incumbent Mayor Ehud Olmert. Just to complicate matters further, some local Likud activists, upset about Olmert's deal with Labor, are running on their own list as the "real" Likud.

In Haifa, the main challenge to incumbent Labor Mayor Amram Mitzna is city council list from an independent list led by a local Labor Party leader.

And in Beersheba, both Labor's Ya'acov Terner and the Likud incumbent Mayor David Benford have only tenuous connections to their respective national party organizations.

The waning of the national parties in the local elections might be seen as a reflection of what has happened at the national level with the advent of the law to directly elect the prime minister. That law resulted in the shrinkage of the Knesset strength of both major parties, as voters felt free to vote for small parties without "wasting" their vote for prime minister. Candidates for prime minister, in turn, have less need for and show more independence from the party apparatus, as the race becomes one between individuals as much as between parties.

However, there may be another phenomenon at work that is at least as significant as the new election law in weakening the parties at the local level: the growing gap between what concerns local voters and the issues that dominate the national debate. The gap between local and national issues is significant in most democracies, and there is nothing wrong with a gap existing here, too. But there is something wrong when the major parties barely take positions on anything relevant to governance on the local level.

In the United States or Europe, the voter can get a rough idea of the economic world view of local candidates by noting which party they represent. By contrast, Labor and the Likud are barely differentiated on any of the "domestic" issues of the day: size of government, taxes, environment, and social issues. Even on the one issue that historically has determined elections - peace and security - the gap between Labor and the Likud has dwindled substantially.

Though party labels never guarantee exactly what candidates will do if they are elected, at least the voter has some idea what to expect. In the current partyless morass, some candidates proudly flaunt their lack of any such guiding framework. Huldai, for example, brazenly eschewed making any campaign promises, claiming, "In 10 years' time, they will say there was a good mayor in Tel Aviv... Give me a chance to keep my promises without making them. I know what people think about. I know what they want done." While "campaign promise" may have become synonymous in the public mind with "unkept promise," and party discipline may be a thing of the past, without promises and parties to keep elected officials minimally accountable, elections will degenerate into mere personality contests.

A party that does not stand for something on issues that matter at the local level will also find itself bereft of a compelling message at the national level. Labor and Likud should not simply shrug off that local candidates see no reason to associate themselves with a party. The announcement by the Union of Local Authorities that voter turnout is expected to drop below 50 percent is a worrisome sign. Public apathy towards the elections is self-defeating. But that should not excuse the major parties from taking notice, and telling the people where they stand on the issues that affect their lives most.

## Independent A-Gs

EVELYN GORDON

After almost two years of work, a public commission on the attorney-generalship finally published its recommendations this week.

Given the background of media hysteria about the need for a completely independent attorney-general, the recommendations were surprisingly restrained - though the committee did its best to conceal this fact.

Its most important conclusion did not even appear in the summary: It was buried in the main body of the text. This was its reaffirmation of the 1962 Agranat Commission's conclusion that though the attorney-general's rulings should be regarded as reflecting the existing law, the government is entitled to decide how it should act in a given case in accordance with its own judgment.

The report also defends the government's right to fire the attorney-general in the event of differences of opinion that create a situation in which effective cooperation is prevented, and recommends that if differences of opinion arise on a specific legal issue, the attorney-general permit the government to choose another public or private attorney to represent it in court.

Nevertheless, several of the committee's recommendations were disturbing.

The section on letting the cabinet hire a private lawyer, for instance, is severely marred by the fact that the attorney-general may veto such a move if he considers the government's actions clearly illegal. This gives the attorney-general the right to set himself up as judge and jury, and deprive the government of one of the most basic civil rights - the right to legal representation.

Even more disturbing is the commission's proposal for selecting the attorney-general. Under this proposal, a five-member committee would be set up, consisting of a retired Supreme Court justice appointed by the Supreme Court president; a former justice minister or attorney-general appointed by the cabinet; a representative chosen

by the Knesset Law Committee; a lawyer chosen by the Bar Association; and an academic chosen by a forum of law school deans.

This committee could propose its own candidates, in addition to considering the government's suggestions. It would then review all candidates, and submit its top choice (or choices) to the cabinet. The cabinet could only accept or reject the committee's recommendations; if it rejected the committee's candidate(s), the process would start again.

WHAT is immediately obvious is that the majority on the vetting committee comes not from the political echelon, but from the legal profession. This would be fine if the attorney-general were the head of a professional association. However, the attorney-generalship is a highly political post.

It is no accident that the attorney-general is a minister in Britain and a cabinet secretary in the US: He is responsible for implementing the government's political program through legislation and defending it in court.

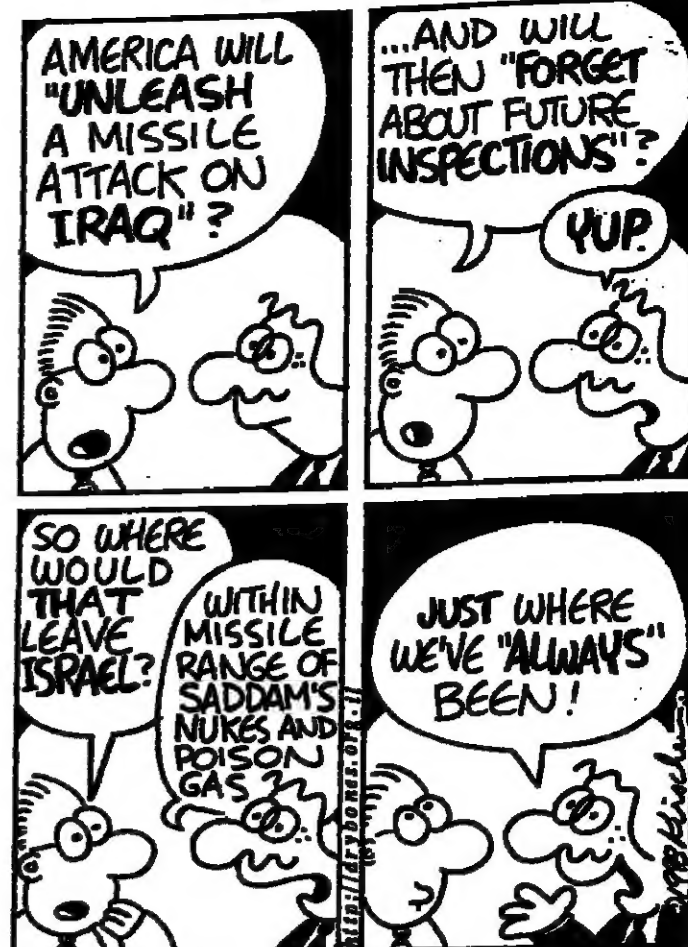
It is therefore important that he be in sympathy with the government's aims, rather than a non-partisan figure who sees it as his right to be obstructionist as many attorney-generals have in the past.

To give just one example, attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair vetoed Yitzhak Rabin's 1994 coalition agreement with Shas - which Rabin needed to get Knesset support for his key policy initiative, the Oslo process, merely because he considered it inappropriate.

Under the commission's system, however, it would become increasingly hard for the government to find a sympathetic candidate. Its proposal that candidates must have abstained from political activity for the past three years, for instance, automatically eliminates some likely candidates.

Most troubling, however, is the fact that the committee could recommend a candidate of its own

## Dry Bones



choosing in place of the cabinet's choices. Though the cabinet could theoretically reject the committee's suggestion, this would leave it in an unpleasant situation.

Not only would the selection process be dragged out, but the government would be under considerable public pressure to take the approved candidate. And many governments will prefer a lukewarm attorney-general to a public fight with the committee.

This is precisely the committee's purpose: To produce independent, apolitical attorney-generals. In fairness, this is partly because the attorney-general also heads the prosecution. Yet it is hard to believe, after months of the Kenneth Starr extravaganza, that anyone still believes independent equals non-political.

In fact, if anything has been learned from Kenneth Starr, it is that independence actually creates

a dangerous incentive for ambitious attorneys to pursue confrontations with the government - it enables them to attract the public eye without paying any price.

It is ironic that Israel is moving in the direction of a more independent attorney-general just as the US is concluding that its flirtation with independent prosecutors has been a disaster.

A vetting process is not a bad idea per se, but it needs public accountability. Under the Shagrir proposal, the vetting committee has no accountability most of the members are unelected, so the public can neither punish them for a poor choice nor apply pressure for the future.

It is the public that suffers from a poor attorney-general, not the lawyers. So why should the legal profession do the vetting? Let it be done by the public's representatives - the Knesset.

## Of garbage and education

DAVID NEWMAN

I was pleasantly surprised this week when three local teenagers to whom I gave a ride were able to name all four candidates running for mayor in our town.

Why was I so surprised? Well, truth be told, this year's local elections have been a pretty low-key affair. Despite some last-minute attempts by the media to arouse some interest in the municipal machinations of the candidates, the public has not displayed an excess of zeal in entering the political debate. There were some instances of violence and the occasional use of strong-arm tactics, but given the political climate we have come to expect in Israel, these were relatively few.

There has probably never been a local government election campaign that has been as divorced from national politics as this one. That does not mean that national politicians, right up to the prime minister, have not tried to influence the voters, but it is light years away from previous elections, such as the last polling in 1993, which occurred only weeks after the signing of the Declaration of Principles at the White House and were regarded by many as a referendum on the nascent Oslo process.

Then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, for example, campaigning in Tel Aviv, said that year's elections would "be interpreted in Tel Aviv, in Israel, in the Arab world, and around

the world as determining if Tel Aviv supports or opposes peace."

This year's local elections have been about local issues. They are about mundane matters, such as which candidate is best suited to improving the town's educational system, preserving the local environment, providing a better return for municipal taxes and/or improving the efficiency of garbage collection and disposal.

Attend any meeting of local government officials, not just in Israel but anywhere, and you will find that there are two issues that are of universal concern: how to deal with the garbage more efficiently, and how to convince residents that they really do get something in return for their taxes.

When local elections are held on the same day as national elections, it is almost impossible to concentrate on the local issues. Research from throughout the world has shown that wherever such elections are held together, there is a tendency for voters to choose candidates, often unwittingly, from the same party for which they voted at the national level.

Having one set of elections instead of two may be cheaper for the government and participation rates may be higher, but the local

issues simply get brushed aside as voters concentrate on choosing their candidates for national office.

In Israel, there is no law mandating that local elections must be held separately, but it is generally considered a good thing. Back in 1988, the local elections were actually delayed by nearly four months, to February 1989, so as to avoid a clash with the national elections, which had been called early.

While municipal officials remain in power for five years, usually running their full course in office, national governments only serve for a maximum of four years, with early elections at times cutting their terms short. As such, it is almost impossible, even if it were so desired, to plan for both elections to take place at the same time.

THE holding of separate local elections also encourages the setting up of local lists that are divorced from the national parties. This has certainly been the case here this year, where independent lists have sprung up almost everywhere, and where the strangest of bedfellows (Likud members with Labor, Meretz affiliates with Shas) are at times running on joint tickets.

If my own community is anything to go by (four candidates for mayor and seven party lists com-

peting for 11 places on the local council) it will not be easy to form majority coalitions once the voting has finished.

Our system of local elections, with separate voting for mayor and local council, has been in place for 20 years. But it is only now, after having voted in a similar fashion in the 1996 national elections, that most people are fully aware that they can split their votes, choosing a mayor from one list, and a different list for local council.

Unlike the national elections, however, there are generally no major differences between the lists' manifestos - all want the same improvements in the local quality of life and educational services - and so there are few reasons why, after the elections, wall-to-wall coalitions cannot be formed in many places.

Local politics is changing in Israel, and for the better. It is becoming increasingly divorced from national issues on the one hand, and putting up more local candidates than ever before. The issues may not be the most exciting, but they affect our day-to-day lives much more than do the affairs of state.

What must now further change is the voter participation rate in the local elections, which, overall remains low. It is important that we exercise our right to vote and make our voices heard.

So go out and vote, if you haven't already done so. It is the most basic right of any democratic system.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BEST OF LUCK

Sir, - It is very heartening to see that our Modern Orthodox are finally beginning to attune themselves to modernity, as David Weinberg tells us in his article on the Lavi Conference (Oct. 18).

One of the basic ideas of modernity that he mentions is humanism. Humanism means that all benefits, welfare, and "glory" should go in the direction of human beings (for human beings, not "for the glory of God").

In Orthodoxy today some things are done because they are thought to express the "glory" one should show to God, even though they impose suffering on some humans.

A good example of this is the Orthodox rule that a "cohen" may not marry a divorcee. Men who are "cohanim," of priestly descent,

are considered holier than other Jews, and Orthodox theory says that some day they will return to their ancient function of performing sacrifices in temples. To show the "glory of God." And as such holy men they are not allowed to marry divorcees, who are considered less pure than others. The suffering of humans here is of course condemned by all modern ethical systems.

There are at least three other practices of Orthodoxy which violate the requirement of modernity that we must promote the welfare of human beings. "Mamzerut" says that if your mother or grandmother was not married or divorced properly you are a "mamzer" and you cannot marry most Jews. Why should children be punished for a deed of their

forebears?

Many women cannot obtain a divorce (they become "agunot") because their husband will not give them one or has disappeared. This is a human tragedy that has continued too long.

In "halitza" if a woman becomes a childless widow she cannot remarry until her brother-in-law gives permission. This senseless practice often leads to blackmail. Changes in such anti-human requirements will demand reforms. And there is nothing that the Orthodox fear more than the Reformers. They are acting like the Reformers.

I wish them luck.

GEORGE NATHANSON

Tel Aviv.

### DIRTY CLEANERS

EYTAN BEN-TSUR

Sir, - The report in *The Jerusalem Post* of November 8, according to which the director-general of the Foreign Ministry, Eytan Ben-Tsur will be appointed ambassador to Germany, is untrue.

Ben-Tsur emphasizes that he has no intention of leaving his current post and that he enjoys the support of the foreign ministry.

AVIV SHIR-ON  
Spokesman,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Jerusalem.

Sir, - Did the mayor of Jerusalem ever walk up streets and neighborhoods like Teddy used to during this mandate?

Never has Jerusalem, capital of the country, been as dirty as it is recent years. Not even now, before the elections, did the present municipality authorities take care of cleaning up filth and dirt lining the sidewalks in a great number of streets.

Are they so certain of being re-elected?

Supervision of the street-

cleaners' work and fines for local shop owners who don't care about what's piling up around their houses and gardens seem to be the last concern of those whose job it should be to care for it.

E. MICHAELI,  
Chairman of a bi-national  
friendship association  
in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On November 10, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the government promised to solve soon the acute problem of Haifa's water supply, aggravated by the additional demand created by the completion of the harbor.

50 years ago: On November

10, 1948, *The Palestine Post* announced the capture by the IDF of the Teggart fortress at Iraq Suedia. This Egyptian garrison post surrendered together with its commander, a number of officers and 60 soldiers.

Dr. Ralph Bunche, the Mediator, presented to the UN Security

Council his plan for replacing the truce in Palestine by an armistice. An estimated 85,000 persons, including Jews and non-Jews and an undisclosed number of soldiers, were counted in Jerusalem during the first national census.

Alexander Zvielli

سكزا بن الاميل



# Stolen Torah scrolls get their own task force

The New York City Police Department is taking the theft of Torah scrolls as seriously as homicide, Marilyn Henry reports from New York

The rabbi examined the pair of Torahs, then agreed to pay Charlie Jones \$20,000 once the two scrolls were authenticated. Having struck the deal, the rabbi took the Torahs and left last week's meeting in Manhattan.

A short time later, the "sting" operation complete, New York City police arrested Jones and charged him with possession of the stolen scrolls and their ornaments, which had been taken October 18 from Temple Emanuel, a Conservative synagogue in Englewood, New Jersey.

The "rabbi" in this case was Mordecai Dzikansky, a homicide detective who works out of Midtown North, a tough precinct whose domain includes Times Square and the diamond district.

As undercover assignments go, it wasn't hard for Dzikansky, a traditional Jew, to pose as a rabbi.

"With my yeshiva background, that was one of the easier ones," he said. "All I had to do was put on my knitted kippa and tzitzit, and I was ready to go."

Dzikansky is part of the New York Police Department's Torah Task Force, an elite unit of homicide detectives and prosecutors assembled after more than a dozen Torah thefts in 1992-93 terrorized New York synagogues.

"Law enforcement takes the theft of religious articles, be they Torahs or chalices, very seriously," said

David Pollack, assistant executive director of the New York Jewish Community Relations Council.

"We wanted to send a message that we treated Torah thefts as seriously as a homicide," Dzikansky said.

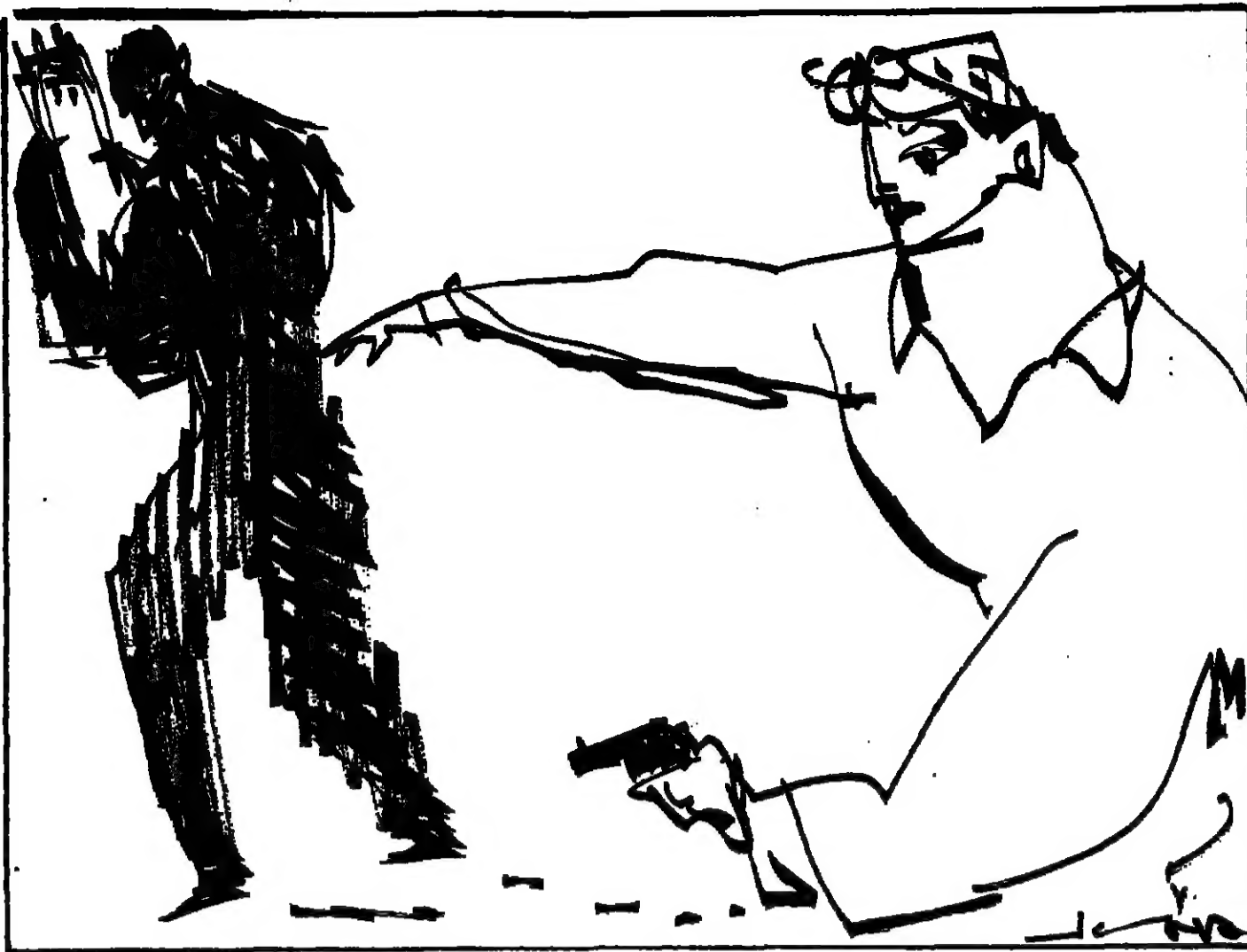
Although Torah thefts are distinctive crimes, "fortunately we had the unique resources to address it," Kevin P. Farrell, the chief of Manhattan detectives, said last week, after the Jones arrest.

THE task force relies on investigators who are intimately familiar with Torah scrolls and Jewish customs, fluent in Hebrew, know the market for sacred religious objects and how to navigate in the Jewish community.

That includes Dzikansky and Joel Seidemann, a prosecutor from the office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau.

These two men have much in common. Both are former yeshiva students; each works homicide cases; each has 16 years' experience — one as a police officer, the other as a prosecutor. Both have family in Israel, and Dzikansky is especially proud of having gone to Israel to work as a volunteer during the Gulf War.

They also have the confidence of the Jewish community, which has led rabbis to tip, then assist them when a Torah goes on the market under suspicious circumstances.



Because the items are Torahs, there are limited outlets for their sale — the primary market for stolen Torahs is New York and Israel.

"It's not a crime that non-Jews are involved in," Seidemann said.

Jones, who was charged in the Englewood case, appears to be Hispanic, and alternately says he was born in Puerto Rico, New York or Israel. However, he also speaks some Hebrew — "better than most," the prosecutor said.

The theft of a religious item differs from other burglaries because "the effect of the loss of the item is greater," Dzikansky said.

In the Englewood case, "it was not two thefts; it was 370 thefts, because 370 members lost their Torahs."

The victims also feel a sense of betrayal at having been robbed of a sacred item that should have been revered by the Jewish thieves and fences themselves.

Recognizing these circumstances, New York State lawmakers devised a special penalty for theft from a house of worship of any

religious item with a value of at least \$100.

"We try to protect institutions that are dear to us," Seidemann said. "The legislature has said that stealing religious items is on a totally different plane than the theft of a car."

This means that if, for example, a thief takes a \$101 kiddush cup from a synagogue, he faces a felony charge that carries a four-year prison term. By contrast, the prosecutor said, if that thief steals a \$900 suit from Bloomingdale's, the tony department store, that is a misdemeanor with a maximum sentence of a year.

In the early 1980s, 200 Torahs were stolen in the US each year, said Pollack, of the Jewish Community Relations Council.

"The trouble with Torahs is that they all look alike," Pollack said. Back in the 1980s, police officials told the JCRC: "Even if we can recover the Torah, we cannot identify it as the one that was stolen," according to Pollack.

Nor could a synagogue in the market for a used Torah know the scroll's origin.

To distinguish and protect the scrolls, the JCRC helped create the Torah Registry. That entailed convening a team of rabbis and scientists to devise a Torah identification system that was secure, permanent, inexpensive and halachically valid.

The team developed a method using micro-perforations that create a unique and indelible mark on the scroll that is not visible to the naked eye.

That mark also is "representational," rather than in any known language.

"We had to be sure that if someone used the Torah in 400 years, [the mark] could never be interpreted as adding 'words' to the language of the Torah," Pollack said, adding that some 10,000 Torahs in the US have been registered since 1982.

Being able to specifically identify a Torah is a prerequisite for prosecuting Torah theft cases, which also rely on a unique expert witness.

For instance, the scrolls and ornaments stolen from Temple Emanuel had an estimated value of \$88,000. To prove the value of a Torah, a scribe may have to be called as a witness to explain to a jury how the scroll is produced and why it is valued as it is.

However, the prosecution of Torah thefts can be hampered because "in certain religious quarters," Jewish witnesses will refuse to help prosecute another Jew, Seidemann said. "This has been an issue," he said.

When asked if this means that these witnesses condone Torah theft, he replied: "You could interpret it that way."

New York investigators also have had problems getting cooperation in tracking stolen Torahs from Israeli authorities, one source said.

"They don't want to rock the boat with some haredi sects," he explained.

The Torah Task Force has conducted three investigations since it was formed, and in all three, the cases were solved, Dzikansky said. There has been a decrease in Torah thefts in the last five years, which in part is attributed to increased synagogue security as well as the existence of the task force.

"The last person who fenced stolen Torahs is in jail," Seidemann said. "This is known in the Orthodox community. The message has gone out that they are going to go to jail."

He was referring to a hassidic silversmith from Monsey, New York, named Markus Fogel, who was sentenced last December to up to three years in prison for fencing the Torahs from the 1992-93 burglaries.

Seidemann, the homicide prosecutor, enjoys Torah-theft cases.

"Most of our work here is depressing even when we succeed. A homicide victim cannot be restored to his family," he said.

"But with a Torah case, when we succeed, we are making a community whole."

## Rabbinic rancor over 'coolest shul'

The new Saatchi synagogue has made London's older houses of worship hot under the collar, writes Jonathan Petre

At first sight, Pini Dunner could be a successful advertising executive. He is animated, expensively suited and his tie swirls with a kaleidoscopic design. His quick-fire conversation is peppered with terms such as "selling the message," "yuppies" and "dumbing down." Only his discreet skullcap hints at the product he is promoting.

The 28-year-old former radio presenter's connection to the world of advertising is, in fact, only peripheral. As the Orthodox rabbi in charge of the newly-launched Saatchi synagogue in Maida Vale, London — founded by the best-known brothers in the advertising world and marketed as the "coolest shul in town" — he is attempting to lure a younger generation of disaffected Jews back to their Orthodox faith by offering fun and food alongside traditional Jewish ritual.

His endeavour is by no means unique to Judaism; most denominations are facing an alarming hemorrhage of adherents and are attempting similar campaigns — the Christian Alpha program, originated at Holy Trinity church in Brompton, west London, is one.

But with Judaism in the headlines — in the past few weeks, a rabbi has sold his controversial book, *Kosher Sex*, to *Penthouse* magazine, and a synagogue has hosted a top society wedding attended by the Prince of Wales and Camilla Parker Bowles — will the brand name of Saatchi prove a crowd-puller?

THE launch has not been entirely auspicious. Like a few previous Saatchi-inspired ventures, such as the notorious "Demon Eyes" poster during the run-up to the last general election, the synagogue's brash, high-profile advertising campaign has provoked as much rancor and rivalry as praise.

A number of fellow rabbis have complained that the advertisements, carried in the Jewish press in recent weeks, have criticized other congregations.

And in what is threatening to become an escalating battle, the Golders Green synagogue, one of the biggest in London, has taken out its own retaliatory advertisement in *The Jewish Chronicle*.

"We have ruffled a few feathers. An advertising campaign as in-your-face as this one was always going to upset someone," Dunner said.

"One of the advertisements showed a speed-sign with 45 on it, suggesting we didn't want older people. We've had a lot of disgruntled 47-year-olds very cross with us. We have also been accused of dumbing down religion. But every

that. Windows 95 was accused of dumbing down computers.

"Who cares how you get people into the synagogue, as long as they come and are comfortable with it when they get there?"

Advertisements for the new venture, which have been handled not by the Saatchis themselves but by a small, Covent Garden-based company called Hype!, have been, by the standards of the normally staid Orthodox community, something of a sensation.

"Where is it inscribed that it's a sin for a shul to be fun?" demanded one. In another, the traditional gefilte fish ball is depicted under the headline: "At our new synagogue, this is the only thing that gets

**'Who cares how you get people into synagogue — as long as they come and are comfortable?'**

— Rabbi Pini Dunner

rammed down someone's throat."

Other synagogues, the advertisement added pointedly, are "too formal and have boring services," while the Saatchi synagogue will be a "breath of fresh air" by comparison.

Certainly, the atmosphere at Rabbi Dunner's bright, modern synagogue — created with a £250,000 donation from Maurice (Lord Saatchi) and Charles, and their brothers David and Philip, in honor of their parents — is less formal than at traditional Orthodox synagogues.

On offer are shorter "toe-tapping" services, complete with folk music and dancing, and social activities such as four-course dinners (delights include chicken soup, egg bread and kugel) and secular speakers: Steven Berkoff, the actor, and the great-grandson of the composer Richard Wagner are among those booked.

BUT other rabbis have been irritated by the hype.

Rabbi Michael Harris, of the Orthodox Hampstead synagogue, fulminated in a letter to *The Jewish Chronicle* that it was "offensive because, while there is nothing wrong with promoting one's own synagogue, to do so by denigrating others is reprehensible."

The advertisement placed last week by the Golders Green syna-

continued: "Our dynamic and innovative shul is open to all regardless of age. We have wonderfully traditional services... and sermons by the rising young rabbi. Come and join the flagship shul of the United Synagogue."

Dunner shrugs off his critics.

"We have had more than 2,000 calls, many of them from people who haven't been in a synagogue for years," he said, adding that the "heart of the Orthodox establishment" including Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, had been supportive.

"On one level our campaign was a gimmick. On another level it has hit a raw nerve. The Jewish community is run by older people who have little knowledge of the needs of my generation, and they are not ready to relinquish the reins of power."

"What is the point of having a huge beautiful synagogue if it is empty? We have to recognize the 19th-century liturgy does not appeal to the young."

"The people we've got coming to the Saatchi synagogue are City yuppies, from the financial services, television, advertising. My generation are looking for something other than material satisfaction."

"The bottom line is that the more competition there is between people promoting religion, the better."

LESS than a mile away in St. John's Wood, Rabbi David Goldberg, who heads the fashionable Liberal Jewish synagogue, believes it is time for a truce. "It is not fair to criticize other congregations. It is a most unrabbinic thing to do," he said.

He has little fear of competition: Not only is his synagogue in the Reform rather than Orthodox tradition, but it is already favored by many well-known faces from the world of entertainment.

The urbane rabbi said he had watched the argument in the Orthodox community with "detached amusement," but held out little hope that the arrival of the Saatchi synagogue would suddenly transform the Jewish religious scene.

"I'm told that until now, the Saatchi brothers have had no known connection with the Anglo-Jewish community. I'm delighted if they are discovering an interest," he said.

"But it is very unfortunate that this advertising campaign has taken off in this way."

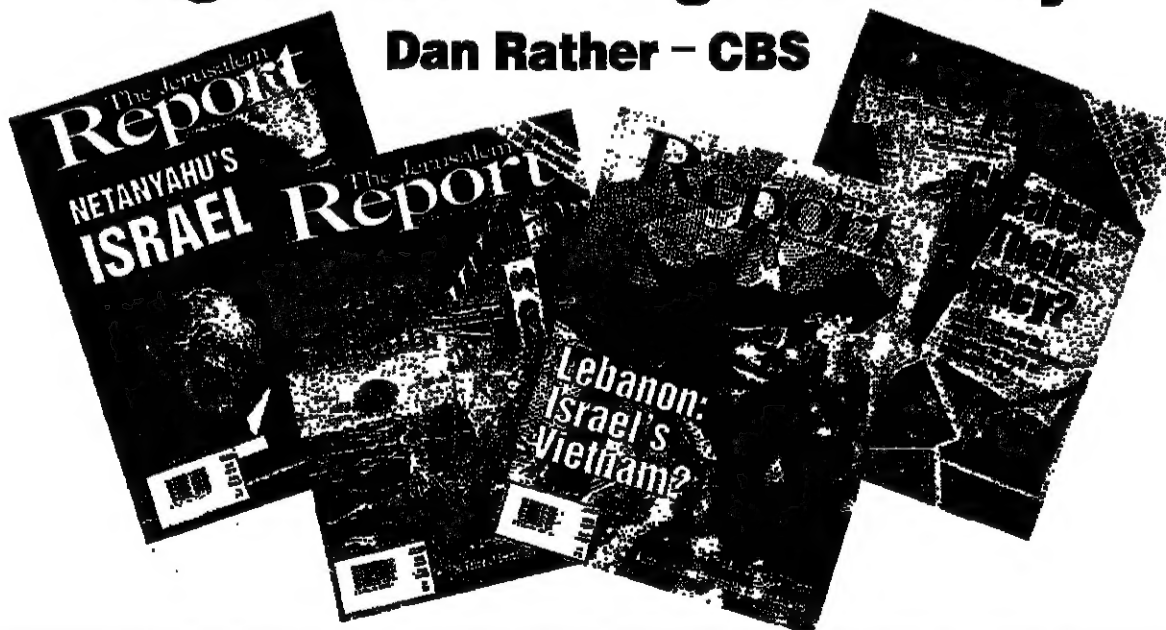
"While I welcome the new synagogue, I think its effect will be short-term because the Orthodox community remains out of touch in many ways. It will get publicity, but it is trivial."

If nothing else, the rivalry between rabbis seems destined to run and run. (The Daily Telegraph)

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## Untitled offspring

OK, we all know William Shakespeare wrote in *Romeo and Juliet* that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

But let's get real. Would we really have that much fondness for a "rose" if it was called — say — "chopped liver?"

With all due respect to Shakespeare, names are extremely important. And at no other time in life does that seem as abundantly clear as now, when I am on the brink of giving birth and utterly undecided as to what to name the baby.

Somewhat, being responsible for the food, shelter, health and well-being of my offspring manages to pale in comparison to the responsibility of choosing its name.

After all, we are talking about a label for life, about first impressions, about a name he or she will have to hear hundreds of times, every day of his or her life.

THERE are few aspects of having a baby in which single parenthood might actually be an advantage, but I think this naming business is one of them. There is a slight possibility that one person can finally arrive at

goes to spend part of the summer with Grandma in Philadelphia, Toronto or Manchester, he isn't teased so mercilessly he jumps on the next flight home.

The name should also be one most family members can pronounce. How many Americans can say "Tzahi" without sounding like they are wheezing?

It's pretty ironic that in the US, traditional biblical names like Rachel, Rebecca, Hannah, Joshua, Samuel and Ezra (the name of Reiser's son) are so hot they're sizzling. In Israel, these are grandparents' names.

The stylish names here are short and snappy, often having one syllable, sounding more like a pronoun or a participle than a name. And most of them just sound dumb silly to a native English speaker.

I'm sorry, but I don't want a kid named "Or" or "On" — no ifs, ands or buts about it. And I have also firmly vetoed what I call the "furniture names" — there'll be no Bars, Dors, or Drors in my nursery.

And then there are the names that could actually put a kid in danger, names no merciful parent could ever allow their kid to bear

### Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

### I have firmly vetoed what I call the 'furniture names' — there'll be no Bars, Dors, or Drors in my nursery

the perfect name for a child. But doing it by committee? No way.

There is added pressure when you are pretty sure you aren't going to be one of those people producing a child every year or two for a decade — which might, at least, give you the opportunity to use not only your favorite name and your partner's, but your second and third choices as well.

You want something special, but you don't want something weird. As comedian Paul Reiser put it in his book, *Babyhood*: "The simple combination of letters and sounds you select can result in a life of carefree coolness or decades of expensive therapy. 'Hi, I'm Jake,' versus, 'Hi, I'm...Tapioca.'"

"Not to denigrate the virtues of being unique, it's just that there's a fine line between Good Unique and Just Plain Wrong. Good Unique is when you call your child's name and he's the only one who comes running. Just Plain Wrong is when they're running because they're being chased."

And Reiser has it easy. He's almost sure his kid is going to spend pretty much his entire life in one country.

When you live in Israel, with a great deal of your family living in another country, the search for the perfect name becomes even trickier. You are looking for a moniker that is fairly common yet sufficiently hip in both Hebrew and English, so that when your kid

when attending an American summer camp or school.

I would advise any Israeli even considering a stint abroad to think really hard before they name their child Osnat or Moran.

And it is not only English-speakers that have to be careful. Friends of our family named their daughter "Mor." They didn't consider the child's poor dotting grandparents in France, who have to explain to their friends why their beloved granddaughter bears a name the sound of which, in French, means "death."

But once you've finally narrowed down the possibilities, you run into the problem of still wanting to choose something somewhat unique — particularly if you live among English-speakers, as I do in Ra'anana.

I just couldn't bear to be one of 20 women in my neighborhood calling out "Yonatan!" in an American accent at my local playground.

So the search for the perfect label for Untitled Offspring continues.

And at the rate I'm going, I fear I won't be able to come up with that ultimate name — something familiar, yet unique; something that will allow my child to stand out and blend in at the same time — until the kid reaches adolescence.

On the other hand... that should be just about the time he or she announces that they hate their name, and want to change it.



Makonnen with his mom: 'He's helped me tremendously,' says the minister who appointed him. (Los Angeles Times)

## Tech guru at 13

Makonnen David Blake Hannah is just a typical teenager — except, oh yes, he briefs the Jamaican government. Mark Fineman reports

At first glance, the corner bedroom of the simple home in suburban New Kingston seems a typical teenager's space: wall posters of the Reggae Boyz, Jamaica's national soccer team; a girlfriend's portrait; a boom box; and a bedspread of suns, moons and stars.

But sprawled across the bed at the keyboard of his new Omega P-200, the boy in baggy shorts, T-shirt and dreadlocks is hard at work for his government, probing the universe of global technology for what's hot, what's not and what could provide a bridge to a better future for his Caribbean island nation.

He scours Web sites across the continents, samples the latest in game technology, joins in a global technology forum run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, pores over computer magazines and technical journals and sends a constant stream of e-mail to his boss, whom he briefs in person every Monday at Jamaica's Ministry of Commerce and Technology.

His salary? "Enough to take my girlfriend to the movies a couple times a month." Meet Jamaica's technology consultant, Makonnen David Blake Hannah, the youngest government adviser in the nation's history, according to the Cabinet member who hired him.

Makonnen is 13 years old, and his appointment made headlines worldwide when the government announced it in July. He's a whiz kid on the Web who has been hooked on computers since he was a toddler. He reads dozens of books and hundreds of magazines a year and speaks precise Oxford English, although he's never finished a semester of school.

Makonnen is the product of a pioneering family that is as unorthodox as his recent government posting. In the 1940s, Makonnen's grandfather, Jamaican journalist Evon Blake, broke the

color barrier in this former British colony when he defied all convention and jumped into the whites-only swimming pool at Kingston's Myrtle Bank Hotel.

And Makonnen's mother, Barbara Blake Hannah, a Rastafarian author, filmmaker and former senator who has home-tutored her only child since birth, shattered similar convention in 1968 when, according to her official biography, she became the first black television journalist in the UK.

For Phillip Paulwell, the commerce and technology minister who appointed Makonnen to the post, the move was not unlike those of Makonnen's mother and grandfather — a gesture of both symbolism and substance.

"For us, it's a question of survival, of getting our young people on board and having them teach us," Paulwell said.

"Obviously, by his age, there was a message in Makonnen's appointment. But he already has helped me tremendously, keeping me informed on the latest trends in software and hardware development and keeping me in touch with the new generation."

In his weekly briefings so far, Paulwell said, Makonnen has advised him on the relative advantages of the latest line of wafer-thin laptops, which he is considering for his ministry, and on new software that makes Web searches faster and more efficient.

ALTHOUGH Makonnen has the official title of youth technology consultant and is considered a full-fledged member of the ministry staff, Paulwell said child-labor laws prevent him from putting the boy on the government's official payroll; the small salary is a stipend, he said.

The nation's new technology consultant put it simply: "We really want to make Jamaica a power in information technology."

Makonnen said, acknowledging his role in that process.

"Of course, that will take awhile. The first step is to knock down the Cable & Wireless," he added with a laugh, referring to Jamaica's monopoly telephone company, which advertises: "One voice. One vision. One future."

"It's a question of better choices, competition," Makonnen said. "With competition comes better quality. They're just sitting on their butts down there [at the telephone company] saying, 'We don't need faster lines, we don't need better technology.' But to survive in the future, we do."

"It's just better for people to have more choices." In decades past, such talk from a government adviser — age aside — would have sharply provoked many in this nation, which has alternated between fervent socialist and capitalist regimes.

IN keeping with the principles of the Rastafarian religion — a minority sect born in Jamaica that views the late Ethiopian leader Haile Selassie as a divine savior — Hannah has not cut Makonnen's hair since birth. But his mother added that she has imposed neither the hairstyle nor the religion on her son: "Rasta is not hair, it's here," she said, pointing to her heart. "Rasta is what you do."

Makonnen is in many ways just an average teen. He spends hours on the phone with his girlfriend. He's an avid computer-game player: "FIFA '98," the world soccer federation's latest game, is his current favorite. He plays real-life soccer every Saturday, and his immediate ambition is to win a spot on the Reggae Boyz national team in a few years.

Long-term goal: "To be phenomenally rich." "Start a computer company, maybe, a private company that develops software." (Los Angeles Times)

## Grapevine

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

It's Thursday, it must be Israel. That was more or less the reasoning behind the lightning visit British philanthropist David Sieff and his wife, Jeni, made last week to attend the gala dinner of the Jaffa Institute's David and Jeni Sieff Center at the Tel Aviv Hilton. The center provides a wide-ranging after-school program for Jaffa children from low-income families of all denominations. A fourth-generation contributor to the well-being of the people in this country, the Hon. David Sieff is the great-grandson of Michael Marks, co-founder of Marks and Spencer.

Only the night before, the Sieffs had been guests at a special social-welfare dinner in London which had also been attended by Princess Anne. A former director of M & S, Sieff is currently chairman of the National Lottery Charities Board, chairman of Newbury Racecourse and a founding member of Business in the Community.

The program Sieff and his wife sponsor at the Jaffa Institute provides the children with hot, nutritious meals, homework assistance, two computer rooms, extracurricular activities such as arts and crafts, a library and transportation to and from the Jaffa Institute. It also provides therapy for those children who require it.

Dinner guests included British ambassador Francis Cornish and his wife, Jane, British philanthropist and investor Cyril Steim, First International Bank chairman Yigal Armon, and Pee Koelwijn and Herman Schotanus from the Dutch Christians for Israel. The latter presented all those attending with boxed tulip bulbs — a really nice way to say it with flowers.

### GREETING

guests who had come to the Eretz Yisrael Museum for the Israeli launch of the first Lolita Lempicka perfume, Michael Schestowitz, director of his family's perfumes and cosmetics import and distribution company, put in the most convincing plug of all for the new product. By pure chance, he'd had a

whiff of it during a visit to Paris and become so entranced that he went to Galeries Lafayette and bought a bottle for his wife. "When I buy retail at full price, it really hurts my heart," he said, explaining how intoxicated he'd become by the fragrance.

AND while we're on the subject of olfactory pleasures, did you know that the perfume industry regards Israel as the world's best per-capita consumers? So claimed Ephraim Apter, managing director of Nobel Cosmetics, at the launch of Christian Dior's newest fragrance, Hypnotic Poison, in the old-world ambience of the Orange Restaurant in Tel Aviv. The bad news for those consumers, according to Itzhak Nahmias, the company's marketing manager, is that perfume prices — which became so delightfully affordable after being freed of taxes — will now go up owing to the devaluation of the shekel.

EVERY man has a secret dream, and the one cherished by Danny Gillerman, head of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, was to go backstage at a fashion show. He had his opportunity at Gan Oranim last Friday, during the fabulous show held by couture designer Gideon Oberson and his daughter, Keren, on behalf of Nila, the association of wives and daughters of members of the Israel Diamond Exchange. Standing at the top of the runway looking every inch a male model himself, the dapper Gillerman, who is chairman of the



Gillerman: natural comedian (Isaac Harari)

board of Alpha Visa, launched the credit card's Fine Club, to be used by Nila members and their friends. Purchases made with Fine Club cards will guarantee that a percentage of the money spent is diverted to social-welfare needs. Needless to say, the first recipient of a Fine Club card was Nila president Hannah Gertler. A natural stand-up comedian, Gillerman said that when his wife had her credit card stolen some years ago, he didn't notify the police "because the thief spent less than she did."



Tichon: just in time to dine (Isaac Harari)

A MINOR mishap with the car that was supposed to transport Ludmilla Tichon, wife of Knesset speaker Dan Tichon, to a luncheon held in her honor by former society columnist Mira Avrech caused the usually punctual Tichon to arrive at Middle East mean time. It took her well over an hour to find another car. She could easily have called and canceled, but knowing that several women were waiting for her she decided it was "better late than never." Avrech suggested that her guests — who included Slovenian ambassador Darja Bavdaz Kurek, Tuni Esteche-Gil, wife of the Argentinian ambassador, Maria Pia Cavara, wife of the Italian ambassador, Jane Cornish, wife of the British ambassador, and Gita Mathur, wife of the Indian ambassador — go ahead and eat, but they insisted on waiting for Tichon. Ninety minutes later, Avrech was finally able to prevail on her guests to sit down to the table — just as Tichon arrived, with lawyer and fellow invitee Tammy Raveh in tow.

WHEN Yoni Dotan, son of comedian Dudu Dotan, was hospitalized with cancer, the Make-A-Wish Foundation granted him his heart's desire. Yoni asked to meet US President Bill Clinton, and the family was duly flown to the US. Their meeting

with the president went way beyond the allotted time as Clinton roared with laughter over father Dotan's jokes. So it was only natural for Make-A-Wish to ask Dotan to run the show at this year's fund-raiser, which will be held this coming Thursday at Tel Aviv's Center for the Performing Arts. Dotan has lined up some top entertainment personalities, including Shalom Assaf, Dana Doron, Shoshana Damari, Orna and Moshe Datz, Uzi Hiltman and Yaffa Yarkoni. He's also gotten hold of Matti Caspi, Oded Menashe, Hani Nahmias, Tuvia Tsafir, Miki Kam, Sassi Keshet, Hanoch Rosenne and Tzipi Shavit.

THE gray world of diplomacy is going gay. Yediot Aharanot carried a report last week about Yitzhak Yanko, acting Israeli consul in Brazil, and Mike Goldstein, the consulate's information officer — a couple in every sense. In an interview with a Brazilian gay publication, the couple praised the Israeli Foreign Ministry for its open-mindedness and lack of discrimination.

THIRD-year law student Kochi Mordechai turned up at the Knesset last Wednesday in a bid to persuade MKs that demonstrating students had a case. Her husband, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, was on the side of the students, she told legislators. Protests were temporarily suspended on Thursday for the wedding of students Efrat Meshiach, 27, and Amit Bar El, 28, in the protest tent on the Tel Aviv University campus. Hundreds of striking students joined in the festivities.

ATTENDING her first Shlomo Carlebach memorial concert in Jerusalem last Thursday was Frances Belfer, who had flown in the day before from Sydney. Belfer is the wife of Rev. Edward Belfer, second-in-command at the Great Synagogue in Sydney. Inspired by music and dancing, Belfer called her husband on her cell phone to share the wonderful moment — even though it was 5 a.m. in Australia.

JERUSALEM mayor Ehud Olmert obviously believes the pundits who have forecast a victory for him today — which is why he took time out from his own campaign to go out on the hustings for Tel Aviv mayoral candidate Doron Rubin. Olmert did more than press palms and spew platitudes. He also donned a DR baseball cap and wore a huge DR sticker on his shirt.

AND to the fair sex, making their strongest play ever in municipal elections — may the best women win!

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Dear Ruthie,  
For the past six months, our 15-year-old son has been very active in a group promoting better understanding among different sectors of society. He has made new friends, and seems to enjoy his involvement in the group. But a few of the youngsters rub him the wrong way.

This week, he gave vent to his displeasure through what he insists was a joke. After receiving a personal e-mail message from another group member, also a "joke," saying "Kill — and —" (two of the group members), our son sent the message out to all the members of the group.

The predictable response came quickly. We learned about the whole thing when the father of one of the children named in the "kill" message called us to demand an explanation and a public apology. The organization's leaders also called in our son and demanded that he apologize or leave the group.

We are not totally cut off from the way kids communicate with each other. But we recognize that, especially in the context of an organization meant to bring about better interpersonal relations, and in the charged climate of this country, a public statement like this, even if meant as a "joke," cannot be condoned, and we agree that a public apology is in order. At the same time, we have tried to reassure our son that we love him and that our primary concern is with the harm his action could cause others and himself.

But the more we try to talk about it with him, the more he insists we don't understand, and he refuses to apologize. Perhaps the saddest part is that he is hurting himself by his refusal, cutting himself off from the very group he seemed to have enjoyed so much.

Even more important is how my son has handled his anger at someone else. He has a long way to go if he expresses anger in a way that not only hurts the other person but himself too.  
Perplexed Parent  
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Perplexed,  
If your son is 15, he is probably feeling ambivalent about himself. As such, he undoubtedly has an

ambivalent relationship with his peers. That he considers verbal abuse "a joke" is as normal for a kid his age as it is understandable, given the internal turmoil kids his age experience. That it should take the form of passing on violence-inducing e-mails to other members of his peer group means he needs the approval of the herd. It isn't, therefore, really relevant that the incident occurred while your son was involved in a group which promotes cooperation and understanding.

It is far easier for people — whether they are 15 or 50 — to adopt concepts for the greater good of society than it is to apply them to their immediate surroundings. Thus, while exhibiting genuine concern over issues such as violence, incitement and general public discord, your son had no problem perpetuating nasty messages attacking kids in his group.

The problem, then, is not as serious as it might appear, though his refusal to apologize has made the whole affair escalate. Unfortunately, this, too, is part of his being 15 and at odds with himself. Faced with what he had done, reprimanded by group leaders and parents alike, your son promptly mounted his "high horse," and then couldn't get down. This is why your reassuring him of your love was so important.

But maybe there are other ways to help him make a move toward empathy. Through all this, he hasn't really been able to feel the pain the two kids in question were caused. This is why he is insisting that he did it as a joke, and that you don't understand.

One method might be to discuss the "macro" issues he has been busy promoting in this group, and gradually ease into the "micro." Remind your son how much he has gained, socially and otherwise, from having been a member of this group.

Whether he ends up apologizing or not, I imagine that he has been taught a hard lesson — though it may not be visible to your parental eye.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in The Jerusalem Post and in City Lights on Fridays.)

### Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

سكزا من الراجل



# When folkies frowned on Dylan

In Tune



By David Brinn

The performances of Bob Dylan and an early incarnation of The Band during their tour of England in 1966 have long been the stuff of legend, and represent perhaps the Holy Grail of rock. Unauthorized bootleg versions of shows on the tour have long been a staple of Dylan fanatics' record collections, but only now, with the off-

**BOB DYLAN LIVE 1966**  
Bob Dylan  
(NMC)

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SOUNDTRACK  
Various Artists  
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**GRAN TURISMO**  
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Bryan Adams  
(Helicon)

cial release by Columbia of double-disc *Bob Dylan Live 1966 - The Royal Albert Hall Concert* (actually recorded in Manchester) can listeners hear how the music sounded to the concertgoers without the tape hiss of inferior reproduction.

And that sound is simply awesome. The first disc captures Dylan solo and acoustic on seven tunes from his folk repertoire. Here Dylan was virtually inventing the nasal cross between talking and singing that would revolutionize the way rock vocals would evolve.

The farthest away from a classical good voice as could possibly be, Dylan sings clearly and authoritatively, dancing around the melody and enunciating like he means every word. Given the erratic quality of his performances in the last 30 years and his seeming indifference to performing his own material, the acoustic set is riveting for its simple and focused intensity.

Which makes the second disc, the electric second set, even more astounding, as it pumps up that intensity several more notches, thanks to Dylan and his bandmates' incendiary performance.

Amid catcalls and boos from the predominantly folk purists crowd, Dylan and The Band (minus drummer Levon Helm, who temporarily quit) attack the eight songs with bluesy muscle and barely contained fury. The songs crackle with excitement and discovery, ranging from Robbie Robertson's blazing guitar fills to Garth Hudson's manic organ accompaniment.

The band is so confident of its prowess that it doesn't even feel the

need to keep to the recorded arrangement for the scorching closer "Like a Rolling Stone," which had been a hit only six months before. Robertson's guitar takes over the organ bit on the chorus, allowing Hudson to roam freely.

Dylan, meanwhile, challenged to keep up with the best band yet heard in rock music and a surly crowd angry over his going electric, rises to the occasion with the performance of a lifetime.

When asked to comment on the release of the disc after all this time, Dylan reportedly said "If it was any good, it would have been released then."

Well, don't believe him. *Bob Dylan Live 1966* represents the moment when Dylan, The Band and the open-minded portion of the crowd realized that the limits of this new music were endless. Which is something we're still discovering today.

Dylan circa 1998 may not compete with the 1966 Dylan, but he can still dominate the music industry when he wants to. The soundtrack to the new Sandra Bullock film *Hope Floats* is sandwiched by versions of Dylan's "To Make You Feel My Love," performed first by Garth Brooks and then by Trisha Yearwood.

They're but two of the delightful country/blues-based tracks included here.

Other highlights by perennial superstars include another strong Sheryl Crow tune (making this the Year of the Crow) and a tasty walking blues outtake by The Rolling Stones. Even more appealing are the tracks by roots rockers The Mavericks, who sound like they're paying tribute to Roy Orbison, and a song by a group called Whiskeytown which has one of the greatest sing-along la-la choruses of recent memory.

The disc founders in the middle with some shocky country pop but rebounds with selections from Lyle Lovett and Yearwood. Overall, this presents a nice overview of the different avenues country music has turned down in the '90s.

WHO would have thought that Bryan Adams had it in him to make a decent disc after all this time? Certainly not me, after penning his most recent effort two years ago for sounding like a Madison Avenue adman's idea of what rock should sound like in a Coca-Cola commercial. Not to mention that his lyrics had deteriorated to the point of a song called "(I Wanna Be) Your Underwear."

Who was his lyricist, Prince Charles?

Well, Adams must have taken a step back and reflected on his sins, because *On a Day Like Today* is his strongest effort since his mid-1980s heyday. The rockers are relaxed and convincing and the ballads never deteriorate to the level of his multi-platinum soundtrack syrup that has paid the bills over the years.

Even at his journeyman best, Adams was viewed as a poor man's Springsteen, and nothing here will



Bob Dylan, here seen performing in New York in the mid-'60s, revolutionized rock vocals.

change his place in music history. But his general likability and earnestness is back, along with a willingness to not be so slick and polished.

Even a spirited duet with Spice Girl Melanie C on "When You're Gone" succeeds due to the relaxed playfulness which has been missing from Adams' work for so long. *On a Day Like Today* nearly dispels the theory once a hack, always a hack.

THAT Swedish outfit with the cutie-pie vocals is back.

The Cardigans, who splashed onto the alternative scene with the fey Euro-pop of "Lovefool" from *First Band on the Moon*, continue on their quirky way with *Gran Turismo*.

The band has made a deliberate effort not to sound poppy, but with Nina Persson's coquettish warble out front in the murky mix, it's difficult to sound dark.

Many of the tracks are downbeat and contain inventive chord changes and drum patterns. But *Gran Turismo* doesn't present any great leap forward for the band.

They still use their two greatest assets, Persson's voice and guitarist/writer Peter Svensson's grasp of pop songwriting, to create a distinctive, yet unremarkable sound that will suffice until Abba regroups.

## NEWS

of the muse

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

### Wintery music in Abu Ghosh

Last year's winter concerts in Abu Ghosh were so successful that producer Gershon Cohen decided to continue the monthly concerts this year as well. Starting from November 28, there will be two concerts (at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.) once a month in Abu Ghosh. As usual, most concerts will be vocal and choral aside from the winter finale on March 26-27, which will be a wind-instruments festival.

### Jerusalem Symphony hits the European road

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra is currently on an extensive European tour to Spain (five concerts), Germany (nine concerts) and the Czech Republic (one concert). Music director David Shallon is on the podium throughout the tour and the soloists are his wife, violinist Tabea Zimmermann, cellist Antonio Meneses and JSO principal flutist Noam Buchman. The program comprises works by Richard Strauss, Dvorak, Bartok, Tchaikovsky, Hofmeister and Elgar as well as two Israeli compositions, *Flute 3000* by Shlomo Gronich and *Song of Praise* by Odedo Pintos.

### Sing-along with the Philharmonic

As it searches frantically for new audiences, the Israel Philharmonic is, for the first time in history, organizing a sing-along of popular Israeli songs. Shimon Cohen will lead the orchestra in the November 21 concert that invites the audience to sing in tandem with local song ensembles and soloists Arik Lavi and Mettal Trabelsi. The audience will be able to purchase a special program with the words of all the songs.

### Youngest pianist is best

Yonatan Aner, a 20-year-old pianist, won first prize at the 27th La Fenice music competition in Italy. Aner was the youngest of the 50 participants in the competition, which limits the age of contestants to 35. Each pianist competed in three distinct categories: chamber music, lieder accompaniment and solo piano. Aner won first prize in each. He wins a monetary award as well as concert dates in Turkey and Russia and recitals in Italy, France and the Netherlands.

## Libido anxieties

### DANCE REVIEW

By ORA BRAFMAN

Choreographer Wim Vandekeybus quotes author Paul Auster, who said that our lifelong certainties about the world can be demolished in a single second. We live with the presence of the unpredictable.

In *7 for a Secret Never to Be Told* he portrays a dark environment filled with moving shadows, a dream-like state of reality where dangers prowl freely, within and without.

Menacing omens are being sent: A black nocturnal bird lurks about, pecking the moving figures when it can; a shower of javelins shaped like gigantic feathers almost stabs them; a burning magical furnace can reveal their inner truths.

Vandekeybus uses overpowering visual and sensual images that dominate the stage, just as well as Jan Faber, his mentor, did. He finds endless ways to catch our attention when we least expect it, as he did when a curtain of gold-lit streams of aluminum foil dropped with a sudden thundering noise. Visual statements are his forte. He uses them cunningly to reveal layers of subconscious fears and libido anxieties.

Ultima Vez's dancers have to compete for attention and they do it either by resorting to text, or by performing violent physical movements.

There is discrepancy between some of the artistic means that the choreographer uses. Several parts of the work, particularly the "raven" and the "feathers" scenes, deal more directly with the primal state of mind, where our vulnerability and our secrets lie.

But the long, recited statement, tried to capture elusive essence in words, and miss. The minimalist section, containing several solos by female dancers, side-tracked the mood and the rhythm of the work.

Disregarding its dead spots, *7 for a Secret* is a powerful performance that brushes up against the unknown. Like *The X-Files*, it can be scary and rewarding at the same time.

## The road to nowhere

By Ury Eppelstein

Concert Roundup

The Israel Contemporary Players presented a selection of works of the last decade at their opening concert of the season conducted by Zolt Nagy.

Steps (1998), by the Georgian-born Josef Bardanashvili, was the most recent piece performed. The

**THE ISRAEL CONTEMPORARY PLAYERS**  
Works from 1985 to 1998  
Gerard Behar Center  
October 29

work indulges in strong contrasts - the sonorities of widely different instruments, varying volumes, diverse playing techniques such as bowing, plucking or blowing, and changing rhythms and tempi. Tremolo is used profusely in an apparent attempt to evoke associations with electronic sound. A pastoral flute episode, a reminder of the so-called "Mediterranean" style, created a contrast of a different sort.

The program's oldest piece, Michael Torke's *Yellow Pages* (1985), unabashedly repeats one pattern several dozen times - with small variations that are dutifully noticed. As a patience tester it fulfills its purpose well or fails dismally, according to the personal idiosyncrasies of the listener. A likely association is Hans Christian Andersen's *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

Tristan Murail's *L'Esprit des Dunes* (1994) for chamber ensemble and electronics in collaboration with IRCAM of Paris is an

attempt at combining instrumental and electronic sounds. The sounds interact quite organically, mostly by mutual response. As an interplay of sonorities, the piece's qualities are both innovative and aesthetic. Its compositional form is directionless, seemingly coming from nowhere and leading to nowhere - perhaps like the desert it is supposed to portray.

The fact that Martin Matalon admits that his *Las Siete Vidas de un Gato* (1996) is not intended to parallel Bunuel's simultaneously screened film *Un Chien Andalou*, relieves the spectator-listener of the need to say the same.

**YOUTH AT THE CENTER**  
Works by Schumann and Brahms  
Mikhaelot Sha'anania  
October 30

In the Youth at the Center series' opening concert, three young musicians displayed their talents in works by Schumann and Brahms.

Alto Bracha Kol, 28, sounds deliberate and perfectionist in Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben* and songs by Brahms. Imperfect voice production, though, makes her rich, resonating voice sound unnatural and constrained. Lack of spontaneity results in calculated dramatic expression, preventing genuine, more introverted emotional experience.

Although technically quite advanced, violinist Avri Levitan, 25, did not evoke a fairy-tale atmosphere in Schumann's *Märchenbilder* Sonata. In Brahms's Viola Sonata op. 120/1, better known in its version for clarinet, he lacked the maturity that this musically and emotionally demanding work requires.

Shlomi Shem-Tov, 26, was a sensitive and thoroughly reliable partner at the piano in all these works.

## 'Prince of flamenco' salutes bullfighters' heroism

By ORA BRAFMAN

They call him the "prince of flamenco" and he doesn't object. Possessing a star-like manner, he is surrounded by an entourage of devotees (some are family members), who cater to his every need.

But memories from Antonio Canales' more difficult early years are never far away.

Canales, 37, often speaks of a childhood friend, a Gypsy who died at age nine. He vividly recalls the boys' two grandfathers singing flamenco songs all night long, moaning, expressing their pain.

"When your heart can understand the pain and the music and the Gypsy soul, then you know what is flamenco. Once you've touched it, you'll remember it all your life. You have to be careful with the way you approach it, for it is fragile, like crystal."

Canales was one of five children from a very poor Andalusian family. His father, who was ill-

erate, worked at the local ceramic factory; his mother, of Gypsy origin, taught him the joy and the power of dance. A flamenco fan, she danced occasionally at family and neighborhood celebrations, though his father hated it.

Like most youngsters in his Seville neighborhood, he dropped out of school early, at 11. At that age his prospects were limited; if you wanted to be an artist, you needed to start an apprenticeship at an early age, otherwise you needed to help support your family by getting a manual job.

Following his mother, he started dancing at local celebrations. Then, one day, he saw the great Rudolf Nureyev dancing *Romeo and Juliet* with Margot Fonteyn on TV, and made up his mind to become a classical dancer.

He entered the National Ballet school in Madrid at the age of 15 and after a few years became a company member, and soon after, a soloist.

His first visit to Russia with the



Antonio Canales

National Ballet was a great disappointment.

"I realized that I longed for another world, for the time of the czar, when ballet was danced in courts. I found people facing such harsh life conditions."

While touring in Italy, he came across French choreographer Maguy Marin and joined her con-

temporary company for a while. Eventually, though, Canales returned to Spain to deal with his own roots, through flamenco. He founded his own company in 1992.

His familiarity with classical ballet and modern dance makes his flamenco works more ambitious, dealing with a wide range of theatrical subjects in a non-traditional fashion. His associates coined the term "New Flamenco" to describe the trend of contemporary artists using flamenco in a different way.

This interview took place in Lyon, the morning after his premier of his two new works, inspired by Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* and Picasso's *Guernica*, which were a cooperation with the renowned Catalan director Lluís Pasqual.

For the tour that will bring him to Israel for the first time, he is bringing an earlier work, *Torero* (from 1993), that won him world acclaim.

He considers *Torero* his most

important work. In it, he pays homage to the heroic image of the bullfighter.

The eight musicians that accompany the work play traditional Spanish guitar and percussion instruments, but also flute and violin. For the latter part of the work, Canales chose Sephardic music that he heard played by a group called Oilem Boilem in Milan.

The excitement around the bullring and the attention and appreciation of the ritual, is rooted deeply in the Spanish cultural legacy.

Obviously, he's aware that killing animals for entertainment is hardly politically correct these days; it may be the reason it takes a while to get him to admit that he frequently attends bullfights.

"It's only because some good friends of mine are *toreros* [bullfighters]," he insists.

Antonio Canales and his company perform *Torero*, November 17-21 at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center.



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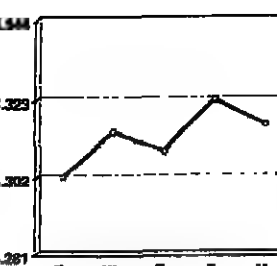
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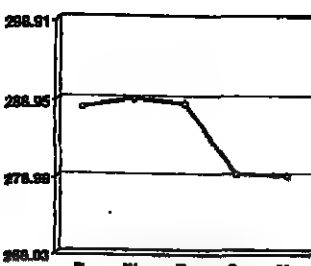
## MARKETS

in brief

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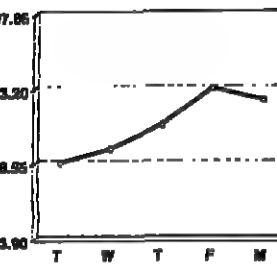


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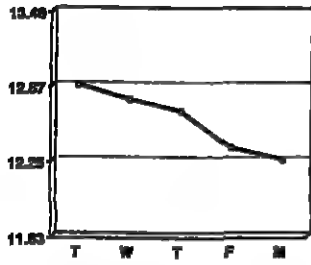
GOLD

\$ per ounce

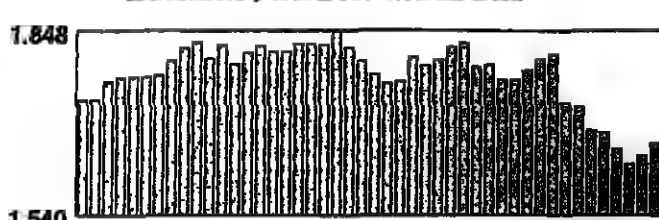


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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NOVEMBER 1997 - NOVEMBER 1998

DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



NOVEMBER 1997 - NOVEMBER 1998

### Sahar wins NIS 120m. insurance contract

Sahar has won a NIS 120 million contract from the accountant general at the Finance Ministry for the car insurance of civil servants. The deal represents the largest insurance deal in the market. The company said that other insurance companies bidding for the tender included Israel Land and Development, Sela, and Clal. The Treasury said that Sela has an option to join Sahar. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

### Igud: TASE affected mainly by interest rates

The interest rate is most dominant factor affecting the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, according to a report which was published yesterday by Union Bank of Israel (Bank Igud). The bank's economists discovered that there is a strong correlation between the Bank of Israel lending rate and the behavior of the stock market. They also noted that the bourse reacts more strongly to changes in nominal rates (central bank rates), while it is unaffected by changes in real rates (the difference between the Bank of Israel and inflation). *Dan Gerstenfeld*

### Dow Corning files bankruptcy plan

Dow Corning Corp. agreed to pay \$3.2 billion to women who are suing over its silicone breast implants as part of its plan to emerge from three years in bankruptcy court. Dow Corning also will pay commercial creditors \$1.3 billion - about a quarter in cash and the rest in 10-year notes - under the reorganization plan filed jointly today in US Bankruptcy Court by Dow Corning and the women's attorneys. Outlines of the settlement were announced in July. "This is a landmark settlement that moves the process forward to fairly resolve the breast implant controversy," Dow Corning president Gary Anderson said. Dow Corning is a joint venture of Corning Inc. and Dow Chemical Co. Large creditors include Franklin Resources Inc.'s Mutual Series Fund and BankAmerica Corp.'s Bank of America, which had \$377 million in revolving credit and short-term loans, according to court records. *Bloomberg*

### Hershey exploring possible sale of its pasta unit

Hershey Foods Corp. said it may sell its pasta business, the largest in the US with brands including Ronzoni and San Giorgio, to focus on chocolate and candies. The pasta unit is expected to generate \$400 million in sales this year and about \$42 million in profit, analysts said. Hershey, the US's largest candy maker, had sales of \$4.3 billion last year. US consumers tend to choose pasta based on price, not brands. Lately, Hershey has maintained its No. 1 position only by keeping prices low to compete with supermarket brands and cheaply priced imports. Hershey's candy business, by comparison, enjoys greater consumer loyalty and scant competition from low-priced products. "They felt they've taken this thing about as far as it can go," said Merrill Lynch & Co. analyst Leonard Teitelbaum, who rates Hershey "near-term neutral." Hershey shares rose 1 5/16 to 68 5/16 in midmorning trading. Its shares have risen 24% annually the past five years. *Bloomberg*

### EU clears Toyota's purchase of share in Daihatsu

European Union competition regulators yesterday cleared the purchase by Toyota Motor Corp. of a majority stake in its affiliate, Daihatsu Motor Corp. "The overlap between the product ranges of Toyota and Daihatsu is limited both at overall EU level and in each individual (EU) member state," the European Commission said in a statement. The commission has powers to examine major mergers or alliances between companies doing business in the 15 EU nations, even if they involve only non-European firms. In August, Toyota said it will pay about 37 billion yen (\$313 million) to increase its share in Daihatsu from its existing 34.5 percent to 51.2%. *AP*

## Senior industry source:

# Egypt wants to sell Israel electricity

By DAVID ZEY HARRIS

While Israel is seeking to buy natural gas from Egypt to generate electricity, Egypt prefers building a power station on its side of the border and selling Israel the power. This has emerged at talks between Jerusalem and Cairo for the purchase of natural gas, according to a senior industry source.

Before talks were broken off a year ago, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon indicated he would be happy to accept such an offer on condition it would be accompanied by a pipeline transporting gas directly into Israel, said the source.

"No request for the supply of electricity to Israel has been received from Egypt," Sharon's office said last night. The ministry did not, however, respond to the suggestion

that foreign companies operating in Egypt also proposed such a scheme.

"I didn't know this was the case, but it would make sense," an Egyptian official said yesterday. He described the Egyptian proposal as "a good idea," adding "it would give Egypt more added value."

Sharon has committed himself to choosing Israel's future energy supply no later than the end of this year. His selection will be based on the advice of the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC), which has been leading negotiations with a variety of foreign suppliers. Israel is keen to have at least two power supplies - most likely one via pipeline and the other imported in ships as liquefied natural gas (LNG). The combined gas and electricity proposal offers Israel an additional level of choice and safety should there be

problems of supply, said the industry source.

The talks between Jerusalem and Cairo had broken off during the deterioration of the peace process, but the Wye accord has given fresh hopes of an agreement between Israel and Egypt.

"Sharon's appointment as foreign minister will help move things forward, as it gives the Egyptians a pretext to invite him over and then a deal could follow very quickly," said the source. "There are other considerations as well. Egypt needs the money and at any point that a credible alternative [to Egypt] arises, then the Egyptians will also begin to move fast."

Two natural-gas producers based in Egypt, ENI and BP-Amoco, are currently discussing with IEC the possibility of supplying gas on a commercial basis, according

to several sources close to the negotiations. While IEC will not comment on these talks and the two companies say negotiations are at the earliest stages, the sources maintain ENI wants to supply Israel via a pipeline it is currently constructing from an offshore site on the Nile Delta to El-Arish in the Sinai. "There is no reason on earth for that pipeline, which is as large as 30 centimeters, to come within 25 kilometers of Israel without actually coming here," said one of the sources.

ENI denies the pipeline is intended for that purpose, but the sources claim the company is bound to say that until a deal is completed.

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny was last night investigating these claims and said a formal Egyptian response would be issued today.



### Free telecompetition

Communications Minister Limor Livnat opens the Telecom '98 exhibition in Tel Aviv yesterday by pledging to continue opening the telecommunications industry to competition. She promised this would lead to cheaper prices and a wider range of choices for consumers. Clal CEO Yitzhak Kaul also participated in the opening ceremony. *(Gil Hadani)*

## Tamir-Fishman to merge with Zinger Barnea

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The portfolio management activities of Tamir-Fishman and Zinger Barnea will be merged into a company which will manage assets of some NIS 500 million.

The merged company, which will be named Tamir Fishman-Zinger Barnea Investment Management, will also manage mutual funds and will offer brokerage services abroad.

Under the terms of the agree-

ment, Tamir-Fishman, which represents US investment bank Hambrecht & Quist, will own 55 percent of the merged company, with Zinger Barnea holding the remainder. The companies said that their other activities would continue to be managed separately.

The move is the latest in a series of mergers in the financial industry. Industry sources estimate that this trend will intensify in the near term on the background of decreasing activity on

the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Last month Israel Discount Bank said it has agreed to purchase 33.3% of Ilanot Batucha, Israel's largest investment company, in a stock swap deal in which IDB transferred all its portfolio and mutual fund management and underwriting to Ilanot Batucha.

Ilanot Batucha itself was created a year and a half ago through the merger of Ilanot Discount and Batucha Securities and Investments.

## Teva's 3rd quarter net down 29.3%

Elron's net income falls 84%

### COMPANY RESULTS

By DAN GERSTENFELD and MICHAEL GROSS

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries yesterday announced that third quarter net income fell 29.3 percent to \$25.3 million from \$35.8m. a year earlier, despite the fact that sales rose 6% to \$303.3m. from \$286.7m.

The decline in the profitability of the country's largest pharmaceutical company is attributed to a rise in costs: a decline in sales of Clonazepam, its generic anti-depressant treatment; and a decrease in revenues from the local market.

Teva's president and CEO Eli Hurvitz expressed satisfaction over the fact that Teva's sales exceeded \$300m. for the first time, saying that half of the increase came from the acquisition last year of Dutch generic drug company Pharmachemie. During the first nine months of the year net income fell 33.4% to \$67.4m. from \$101.2m. a year earlier, while sales declined slightly to \$819m. from \$825m.

The company said that sales abroad rose 12% in the third quarter to \$239.8m., representing 79% of total sales, while sales in the local market fell 14% to \$63.5m.

The decrease in local sales was partly attributed to the shekel's depreciation, as Teva's sales are measured in dollars.

Teva added that it is about to enter into an agreement for the establishment of a joint venture with Sigma-Tau, a leading

Italian pharmaceutical company, to tap into the Italian neurology and oncology markets.

Elron Electronic Industries Ltd. yesterday reported a substantial plunge in its third-quarter net income from \$13.3m. a year ago to just \$2.1m.

The high-tech holding company blamed the fluctuations in earnings on changes taking place in company holdings.

In the third quarter last year Elron gained \$7.4m. from a public offering completed by Elbit Systems in the US and a gain of \$7.8m. from the sale of Orbotech shares.

This year, by comparison, Elron had a gain of only \$2.3m. from private placements in Chip Express and MediaGate, and a gain of \$17m. from the sale of Orbotech shares. Despite the decline in the third quarter, however, net income for the first nine months rose to \$45.8m. from \$22.5m. for the same period in 1997.

The rise was attributed to a capital gain of \$36.5m. from the sale of the ultrasound division of Elbit Medical Imaging to GE Medical Systems.

"The Elron group is undergoing major changes in order to enhance shareholders' value from mature holdings and reposition Elron toward the Information Technology and communication areas," said Uzia Galil, chairman and CEO of Elron.

## J.P. Morgan to cut 5% of staff

J.P. Morgan & Co., the fourth-largest US bank, is cutting about 5 percent of its staff by the end of the year as slowing global markets reduce its profits, sources familiar with the bank said. J.P. Morgan, which employs about 16,200 people, is cutting more than 700 people through a combination of firings and attrition in most departments, including emerging markets and investment banking. When the bank announced third-quarter earnings in October, a spokesman said it would be cutting staff.

Earnings fell 69%. "They already said that they were going to be reviewing all of their businesses, and one of the consequences of that is that people will be let go," said Diane Glossman, a bank analyst at Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. Commercial and investment banks have been cutting staff amid slowing global markets. Merrill Lynch & Co., the biggest brokerage in the US, said it will cut 3,400 employees, or about 5% of its staff, after it reported its first quarterly loss since 1989. *Bloomberg*

## Jan.-Aug. foreign debt falls \$461m.

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Net foreign debt fell \$461 million to \$16.655 billion during the first eight months of the year, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.

Net debt takes into account the gross debt overseas against assets held abroad.

The gross debt, meanwhile, increased some \$2.7b. to \$53.9b. The bank said this was due to a jump in the foreign debt of the private sector in both banking and non-banking segments.

From the turn of the decade until the end of last year, gross short-term foreign debt shrank \$0.3b. and accounted for 38 percent of the total debt, compared to 43% in 1990.

These and other macroeconomic statistics formed the center of a debate at the annual gathering of the Israel Management Center last night. Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel once again found himself the focus of a series of attacks led by Manufacturers Association president Dan Propper.

"The Israeli economy is at one of its low points, when it mustn't be the case that its functioning is in the hands of a small group of economists who believe in a single, tough, narrow theory," charged Propper. "In recent years we've been servants to an inflation regime,

now we fear the Bank of Israel creation - the shekel mountain which has reached NIS 80 billion."

Propper was referring to shekel deposits, which are preferred by investors because of the ongoing high interest rates.

Frenkel told the meeting that daily intervention in shekel trading will not help and cannot be a replacement for appropriate interest rate policy. Speculation is mounting that Frenkel will for the second month in a row increase the key lending rate given present trends in inflation and money supply.

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# Diamonds in the rough

As North America's first major diamond mine opens in the wilds of Canada's freezing northern tundra, experts wonder how much it will threaten DeBeers' powerful cartel

By LARRY GORDON

**YELLOWKNIFE, Northwest Territories** - What would possess anyone to dig a mile-wide crater in treeless tundra that even caribou herds flee in minus-40-degree winters? Why did businesses invest \$700 million to build an adjacent factory, airstrip and dormitory 125 miles south of the Arctic Circle? And why are urban slickers from as far away as South Africa making pilgrimages to this part of far northern Canada?

The answer is in the pit. Sprinkled inside its ancient volcanic ore are shiny pebbles that, cut and polished, will grace fingers, necks and wrists of jewelry lovers worldwide. As a result, owners of the first major diamond mine in North America expect to become very, very rich.

The mine, called Ekati after one of the many nearby glacial lakes, formally opened last month with a ceremony in the camp's gymnasium.

Canadian politicians spoke about strict environmental protection and forecast economic boosts for the region and its native peoples. Glass cases displayed bowls filled with diamonds, most notably a thumbail-sized 12-carat rock that might please Elizabeth Taylor. What was left mainly unsaid, however, was the topic that most intrigues experts in the secretive world of diamond trading.

That was whether Canadian diamonds will be marketed through the cartel with which the South Africa-based De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. has controlled world prices and supplies for 64 years. Will Ekati join the rebellion of an Australian mine that quit the De Beers' blandly named Central Selling Organization in 1996? Or, more likely, will the Canadian mine seek to protect prices by selling some stones through De Beers, but not enough to violate US antitrust laws?

Adding urgency to the questions, the Asian financial crisis is hurting demand for top-line diamonds - for example, sales fell 19 percent last year in Japan, and gloomier figures are forecast this year - just as the Canadian gems are starting to compete with stones from Africa and Russia.

Those issues are being widely discussed in Yellowknife (population 17,500), the Northwest Territories' capital city, which is southwest of Ekati by 200 miles of nearly empty tundra. In this city on the shore of Great Slave Lake, residents say Ekati and future dia-

mond mines planned in the region will restore jobs lost to gold mining troubles and government cutbacks. Diamond merchants unsettled by African civil wars and Russian corruption enjoy Canadian civility and Yellowknife's quirky mixture of log cabins and 10-story office buildings. "People have commented that it beats the Congo," Peter Neugebauer, Yellowknife's director for economic development, dryly noted.

Further afield, Canadian diamonds are also on the minds of merchants in the cutting shops of Europe, Israel, India and the United States.

"The industry is watching very, very closely. It is very important for the future of the diamond industry as a whole," Guido Giovannini-Torelli, editor of the New York-based monthly publication *Diamond Insights*, said of the marketing of the Canadian gems.

Ekati's daily diamond production will not fill up a gallon milk jug, officials say. Yet that's enough to generate between 3.5 million and 4.5 million carats a year, about 6 percent of the world's current annual production by value. With the wholesale price of high-quality rough diamonds averaging more than \$100 a carat, and operating costs about \$35 a carat, backers predict they can pay off the \$700 million initial investment in just four or five years. Then, for the 15 or so additional years the mine is predicted to last, sparkling profits may total hundreds of millions of dollars a year.

WITHOUT such potential rewards, the mine's owners would

not have undertaken the herculean tasks of exploring and developing the remote site. They drained lakes for the pit, constructed an all-weather support base and slogged through years of difficult political and environmental negotiations with the Canadian government and four main groups of native people. They even had to build a two-mile-long water channel to preserve Arctic fish migration.

There are no permanent roads to the mine, only ice roads that cross frozen lakes for 10 weeks a winter. Long convoys of 40-wheel trucks made the two-day drive from Yellowknife over the past two winters, bringing everything from generators to dormitory beds. At other times, cargo jets carried in supplies - and passenger planes delivered the workers.

The weather challenges here were fantastic, construction manager Emilio Maestri said on an observation deck above the pit.

A subsidiary of the Australian mining giant Broken Hill Proprietary Co., or BHP, owns 51 percent of Ekati, and Dia Met Minerals Ltd., of British Columbia, holds 29 percent. The remaining 20 percent is split between Dia Met Chairman Charles Fipke and fellow Canadian geologist Stewart Blusson. Those two men pursued anti-establishment theories of glacier paths and discovered the underground carrot-shaped ore formations, called kimberlite pipes, that hold diamonds like raisins in a pudding.

Since BHP also has extensive mineral holdings in the United States, it could be subject to antitrust prosecution if it sold sig-

nificant portions of its diamonds to De Beers. BHP does not want to lose the lush American market, but it also would benefit from De Beers' disciplined ability to stockpile gems during hard times and its brilliant marketing ("A diamond is forever").

Through its own mines and its marketing contracts with others, De Beers handles about 70 percent of the world's raw diamond trade - or about \$4.64 billion worth last year, according to the company's annual report. The Central Selling Organization clearly survived the loss of its Australian contract, although the resulting competition caused a drop in prices of low-quality gems. And De Beers managed last year to win back much of the Russian diamond production that had previously been pulled out of the cartel.

Still, analysts suggest that Ekati diamonds could pose something of a threat, since its diamonds are of higher quality, with better clarity, than those from the rebel Argyle mine in Australia.

BHP reported last month that it had set up its own sales office in Antwerp, Belgium, but added that "discussions are continuing for the sale of a portion of production to large diamond companies," thought to be a code term for De Beers.

A De Beers official reached by telephone in London confirmed that talks are ongoing and said he hoped that BHP would market at least part of its Ekati gems through the organization. Ekati's share of world production is not very big, "but little things can mount up. We are always concerned when a new producer does not sell through us,"

said Roger van Eeghen, a Central Selling Organization marketing executive.

While decisions about its sales are being made in faraway boardrooms, Ekati is open for business. The 550 workers are mainly divided into two alternating groups, each on site for 14 days of 12-hour shifts and then flown out for two weeks of R&R. According to agreements, about a third of the employees are from native groups such as the local Dogribs and Yellowknives Dene.

Strong safeguards pushed by native leaders and environmentalists are meant to limit pollution of traditional hunting grounds and fishing waters. Now, native leaders say they will be monitoring BHP's promises on ecology and hiring.

The mining work is not of the chisel and pail variety. Granite covering is blasted away with explosives. Huge mechanical shovels then scoop out the gray, sandy kimberlite. Inside the highly automated processing plant, kimberlite is crushed, washed and X-rayed for its shockingly meager holdings: an average of one carat of diamond, far less than the size of a raisin, per ton of ore.

During that work, human hands don't touch the diamonds, according to BHP's security manager, Mike Loper. He runs a network of cameras and random searches to avoid the organized theft rings that plague Russian and African mines. Soon to be installed is a voice monitor that will search for stress when an Ekati worker declares: "My name is John Doe, and I have no diamonds."

(Los Angeles Times)



MEIR RONNEN © 98

## THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

**12.11** The Moshe Dayan Center, in cooperation with the English Speaking Friends of Tel Aviv University, has organized a seminar on The Palestinian Partner: Conflict or Cooperation. Professor Asher Susser will present an Israeli view on the "Origins of the struggle." The seminar will be held at 6:30 p.m. in room 449 of the Gilman Building on the TAU campus.

**12.11** Prime Minister Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Alice Shalvi, honorary president of the Israel Women's Network, and writer Chaim Potok are scheduled to address the five-day Convention of the World Council of Jewish Communal Service. Sessions will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem.

**12.11** The Chief Scientists Department at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Cellcom 98, the Israel Center for Industrial Research and Development, and Bezeq have joined forces to sponsor a day-long convention at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds on High-Tech Companies in an Era of Globalization. At least half of the speakers will be flying in from abroad, mostly from Europe.

**16.11** Lawyers, academics, real-estate experts and business leaders will participate in a study day on Combined Business Deals at the Dan Accadia Hotel, Herzliya.

**16.11** The annual four-day Conference of the Israel Association of Property Surveyors will open at the Grand Nirvana Hotel on the Dead Sea.

**16.11** Professor Laura Zitrain-Eisenberg of the University of Pittsburgh will lecture in the Senate Hall of Bar Ilan University on Patterns in Arab-Israeli Negotiations. The lecture, under the auspices of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies, will be held at 5 p.m.

**17.11** World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman has been invited by the Yisroel Rabin Center for Israel Studies to speak within the framework of the Rabin lecture series. He will deliver a paper on A Renaissance of Jewish Life in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities. The lecture will be held at 6 p.m. in the Bar Shira Auditorium of Tel Aviv University.

**17.11** Scholars and public figures from Israel, the Palestinian Authority and abroad will speak at the three-day conference Peace-making and Negotiations in the Arab-Israeli Conflict. The event is being sponsored by Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, and the Konrad Adenauer Institute. The conference will be held at the Meirsdorf Faculty Club on the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University.

**17.11** The Marketing Forum of the Federation of Binational Chambers of Commerce will conduct a conference on "How to get to the top of the ladder," within the framework of Intermedia 99. The two-day exhibition on marketing, advertising and sales promotion is being held at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds.

**18.11** A special five-hour meeting on Business Power will be held at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds in conjunction with Intermedia 99.

**18.11** Medica - the World Forum for Doctors, Surgeons and Hospitals will open at the Dusseldorf Fairgrounds. The four-day event attracts physicians from all over the world.

**19.11** Telemedicine - New Technologies in Medical Services is the subject of a study day being organized by the Israel Management Center at the Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza, Tel Aviv. Physicians and legal experts representing health funds, hospitals, medical centers and universities will discuss many aspects of telemedicine, including telemedicine and teleconsultations.

**21.11** The Sixth European Working Group on Human Gene Transfer and Therapy will take place at the Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem. The three-day event will focus on new developments and experiments in treating cancer, AIDS and blood- and liver-related diseases.

**22.11** Banking, marketing and economics experts will give projections on The Israel Economy in 1999 at a seminar at Gan Oran. For complete details, telephone (03) 563-2383 or (03) 563-2184.

## Clariant, Ciba in \$6.2b. share swap

Clariant AG and Ciba Specialty Chemicals AG, the world's biggest makers of specialty chemicals, agreed to unite in a share swap worth at least \$6.2 billion, creating the dominant company in the industry.

Clariant shareholders will get 5.35 new shares for each share they held, while Ciba holders will get one new share for each Ciba share. Clariant holders will have a 54 percent majority in the company, which will keep the Clariant name.

The biggest move yet in the consolidation of the \$100b. specialty-chemicals industry creates a company with annual sales of about 18 billion francs, as companies try to cut costs amid falling prices. It also unites the former chemicals units of Novartis AG, the world's No. 3 drugmaker, formed when Switzerland's Sandoz AG and Ciba-Geigy AG merged in 1996.

"Long term, the merger is a good strategic move," said Thomas Vonaesch, a fund manager at Bank Sarasin & Cie in Basel.

"It's also good for shareholders," who saw Ciba and Clariant shares slide in recent months, he added.

Ciba shares jumped 35 francs to 163 francs, while Clariant shares rose 102 francs to 855 francs. That's an increase of 29% and 15%, respectively.

"This makes excellent strategic sense with our complementary portfolio of products and businesses and shared focus on sustained performance," operating Chairman Rolf Schweizer said in a statement.

Clariant and Ciba said they plan to save more than 600 million francs by 2001 as they cut 3,000 jobs, or about 5% of

the combined workforce. Schweizer will be chairman of the combined company, while Ciba Chairman Rolf Meyer will be chief executive and vice chairman. The companies said they will release further details after signing a definitive merger agreement by the end of 1998.

**SPECIALTY** chemicals are those that are typically added to other substances in the manufacturing process to improve characteristics such as durability and flexibility. They are scarcer and sold in smaller volumes and at higher profit margins than so-called commodity chemicals.

Clariant and Ciba said they will take a one-time charge of 800 million francs in 1999 to reflect the cost of the reorganization. The new company will use US accounting standards, paving the way for a "possible future listing in the US," the companies said.

The companies also said Hoechst AG of Germany will keep a stake in the enlarged company. Hoechst owns 45 percent of Clariant.

Credit Suisse First Boston advised Ciba Specialty Chemicals, while Warburg Dillon Read, the investment banking unit of UBS AG, advised Clariant.

The enlarged Clariant will have activities in 120 countries and a combined workforce of 55,000. The company's units include additives, polymers, water-treatment chemicals, colorants for leather, fine chemicals, paper chemicals, pigments and white-ters, among other things.

Imperial Chemicals Industries Plc of the UK is the world's third-biggest specialty-chemicals maker, and Rhodia SA of France is fourth biggest. (Bloomberg)

## Don't believe everything you read

Research proves that the vast majority of financial newsletters are a waste of time and money, though the best of them can draw attention to undervalued stocks

Investors need all the help they can get - which is why so many of them turn to financial newsletters.

Unfortunately, newsletters aren't much good at picking stocks.

"Overall," concludes a thorough new study published by the prestigious National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, Mass., "there is no evidence of superior stock-selection skill by newsletters, either over the short or long horizons."

But don't despair. Newsletters have their uses.

The best of them can draw your attention to stocks that may be undervalued or neglected. They can also provide excellent advice on allocating your assets among stocks, bonds and cash - and help you keep your head when everyone around you is losing theirs.

Still, the vast majority of newsletters - many of them high-priced - are a waste of time and money, or worse. A favorite newsletter tactic is to scare the hell out of you. You're more apt to keep subscribing if you think the world is coming to an end and only Newsletter X can save you.

The new research was conducted by Andrew Metrick of Harvard using data collected on 153 newsletters by the *Hulbert Financial Digest* (monthly, \$135 a year), a superb newsletter, edited by Mark Hulbert and based in Alexandria, Va., which has been dispassionately tracking the performance of other letters for 17 years.

Metrick found what Hulbert readers already know: religiously purchasing the choices of the vast majority of newsletters, usually expressed in what the editors call "model portfolios," won't make you any more money than buying an index mutual fund or even throwing darts at the newspaper's stock charts.

Metrick also found that newsletter editors don't develop "hot hands." In other words, a strategy of buying the best recent performers "does not earn positive abnormal returns."

Only one newsletter of the 29 survivors that Hulbert has tracked over the past 15 years has beaten the Wilshire 5000 index (a benchmark composed of virtually all US stocks). The picks by that letter, *The Charist* (issued every three weeks, \$150), published in Seal Beach, Calif., by Dan Sullivan, returned an annual average of 15.9 percent while the Wilshire returned 14.7%. The second-place fund, *Investor's World*, returned only 12.2%.

Over the past five years, only two out of 105 newsletters beat the Wilshire - a record horrifying beyond belief. They were the deliciously titled *The Prudent Speculator* (monthly, \$175 a year), in Laguna Beach, Calif., and *All-Star Funds*.

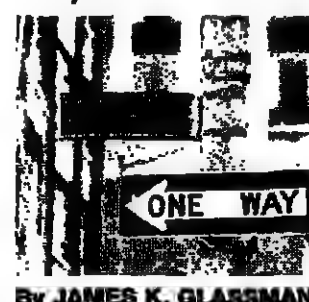
Selections by *The Prudent Speculator*, edited by Al Frank, has returned an annual average of 19.4%, well above the Wilshire's 16.1%. *All-Star Funds* returned 17.3%. A third newsletter, *Fundline*, tied the Wilshire. The other 102 letters - 97% of the total surveyed - fell below it.

WHY do these newsletters fare so poorly? The main problem is that they trade a lot, incurring commissions (Hulbert includes these costs in its assumptions) and often moving into cash (which, especially over the past 16 years, has been a dumb thing to do). Also, against all odds, some of them make consistently lousy selections.

But the biggest problem of nearly all letters is that they try to time the market - jumping in and out based on their editors' view of the future. Market timing is a game which, it seems, only one newsletter, *The Charist*, has been able to play successfully, and even editor Sullivan missed most of the huge market moves since 1994, which is why he's trailed the Wilshire over the past five years.

My advice for newsletter readers is simple: Ignore all timing recommendations. Just look at the stock tips. The best example of a brilliant

### Ways of Wall Street



By JAMES K. GLASSMAN

stock-picker who gets the timing wrong is Charles Allmon, the witty and venerable editor of *Growth Stock Outlook* (twice monthly, \$235), a 34-year-old newsletter based in Chevy Chase, Md. Following the letter's advice strictly over the past 15 years would have produced annual returns averaging only 7.9% - or roughly half the Wilshire's profits - according to Hulbert.

More than 90% of Allmon's current model portfolio is invested in money-market funds. He owns only six stocks, at least two of them worth your attention: Anchor Gaming, which makes gambling machines and runs casinos and currently trades 46% below its May high at a price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of just 9, and New Plan Excel Realty Trust, a REIT that owns shopping centers and apartments and yields an 8.6% dividend.

Another letter whose market timing you can ignore but whose stocks are enlightening is *Dow Theory Forecasts* (weekly, \$233), whose issues often focus on screened lists, such as stocks that have low P/E ratios but high growth, or themes, such as undervalued transportation stocks. The latest issue highlights some of my own favorites in that area, including AMR Corp., parent of American Airlines; FDX Corp., parent of American Express, and Southwest Airlines, Inc.

But according to Hulbert, adher-

ing to *Dow Theory's* stock portfolio has not been too rewarding. The newsletter has failed to match the Wilshire in each of the past 10 years.

*The Prudent Speculator*, which may be the best of all the newsletters, is another matter. Its model has beaten the Wilshire over the past three-, five-, eight- and 10-year periods - an incredible achievement.

In a typical issue, Frank, a skilled and disciplined bargain hunter, presents the key financials for all the stocks on his buy list (companies trading for 50% or less of his determination of their fair value over the next three to five years), provides detailed commentary on about a half-dozen of them, explains his buy and sell decisions and highlights one "Stock of the Month." The buy list - at 120 stocks - is far too unwieldy to own in its entirety, but lately Frank has been suggesting 10-stock portfolios with themes.

Last month, he recommended "Income-Oriented Bargains," that is, stocks that pay decent dividends: Asarco, Brunswick, Cummins Engine, DeBeers, Excel Industries, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, McRae Industries, OEA, Inc., Pope & Talbot and Sea Containers.

His Stock of the Month for November is Integrated Health Services, Inc., which buys nursing homes and converts them into more sophisticated facilities for post-acute patients. After a profit setback, the stock is down more than 60% from its April high.

Still, the company has earned \$1.05 over the past 12 months for a P/E of 14, and Frank believes "1999 operating earnings should be in the \$2.50 a share range." That would put the P/E at less than 6.

Other recent choices by *The Prudent Speculator* include: Singer Co., N.Y., the world's largest maker of sewing machines, which is down more than 50% in the past year and trades at a P/E of 5, based on projections for 1999;

Fleming Cos., Inc., a food distributor and owner of supermarkets, which trades at 3% of sales, 36% of book value, 1.7 times cash flow and a P/E of 8; and Vertex Communications Corp., a micro-cap maker of satellite antenna systems, which just boosted its earnings 29% to a new record but still trades at a P/E of less than 9.

As for *The Charist's* selections, they are generally unsurprising large-caps. The top portfolio holding is Microsoft Corp. Worth noting are Albertson's, Inc., the well-run retail food-drug chain; PECO Energy, Inc., a Pennsylvania utility benefiting from deregulation; and Yahoo, Inc., the Internet search engine, or "portal," as these prime sites are now called.

Two of my favorite newsletters don't offer model portfolios at all, and both are well worth their reasonable prices: *Dick Davis Digest* (24 times annually, \$165 a year) and *Bob Carlson's Retirement Watch*, based in Herndon, Va., (monthly, \$72 a year).

*The Dick Davis Digest*, which is actually edited by Steven Halpern, is a compendium of well-chosen excerpts from other newsletters - 46 of them in the most recent issue. There's always a spotlight stock; on Nov. 2, it was satellite leader Hughes Electronics, picked by *Positive Patterns* newsletter of Springfield, Ohio. Bob Howard, that letter's editor, writes, "When you buy a stock, you want the best. The dogs will always be cheap - always. The best will always be expensive, but in reality they are bargains." Good advice.

Carlson offers cool, smart counsel to his readers. "So far," he writes in the current issue, "every major financial crisis has been a major buying opportunity."

His recommendations are mutual funds rather than stocks, and he provides more general advice on taxes and ways to cut trading costs. (Washington Post)

The writer is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.



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# HAIFA

Continued from Page 20

Radovan Hromatko headed against the crossbar in the 26th minute from Shuki Nagar's cross, and it was Nagar again who tested Yaniv Mizrahi from outside the box seven minutes later. Three minutes before the interval Haifa were rewarded for their efforts as Arik Benado's accurate cross from the right managed to beat all of Rishon's defense and Alon Mizrahi chested the ball down before slipping his right-

foot shot between Yaniv Mizrahi and the post to level the score. Haifa kept on pushing men forward and with seconds left in the first half, Yossi Benayoun was clearly brought down in the box, but referee Eitan Tabrizi waved play on. Seven minutes after the restart, Cohen had a goal disallowed for offside as both he and Udi Kabudi exposed the Haifa defense. But when Ibrahim Duro came on for Yaniv Katan, the difference between the two sides became more apparent. Fifteen minutes after Duro's

inclusion, he headed Adoram Keiseli's cross into the path of Alon Mizrahi, who skillfully chested the ball down and scored his second of the game from close range to make it 2-1 after 78 minutes. With three minutes left on the clock, Rishon's claims for a penalty were denied by Tabrizi after Kabudi was clearly brought down in the area by Benado. And it was Kabudi again who broke into the box in the final minute but he couldn't keep his shot down as it narrowly flew above the bar.

# Windies tour going ahead, Lara reinstated

LONDON (Reuters) - Brian Lara was reinstated as West Indies captain for the delayed tour of South Africa yesterday after four days of talks ended a players' revolt over pay. The 16-man squad will fly out immediately to start the first post-apartheid tour of the republic by the West Indies, although the first game has been cancelled because of the seven-day stand-off between the players and their controlling body. "West Indies Cricket Board and members of West Indies' players' association have reached agreement on terms that will allow the team's tour of South Africa to proceed," a statement read out by WICB president Pat Rousseau said.

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**SCOREBOARD**  
WOMEN'S SOCCER - Results last night: Maccabi Ashdod 2, Bnei Yehuda 0; Maccabi Netanya 1, Hapoel Ashdod 4; Hapoel Tel Aviv 3, Bnei Ramla 1.

# College Football Top 25

The Top 25 teams in the AP college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through November 7, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and ranking in previous poll:

Rank	Team	Record	Points	Prev
1	Tennessee (46)	8-0	1,718	2
2	Kansas St. (19)	9-0	1,677	4
3	Bojia (4)	8-0	1,615	3
4	Florida	8-1	1,516	5
5	Florida St. (1)	9-1	1,510	6
6	Texas A&M	9-1	1,319	7
7	Ohio St.	8-1	1,311	1
8	Wisconsin	9-0	1,309	8
9	Arizona	9-1	1,189	10
10	Arkansas	8-0	1,171	11
11	Nebraska	8-2	1,171	14
12	More State	7-1	899	13
13	Missouri	7-2	752	15
14	Idaho	8-0	747	15
15	Michigan	7-2	729	22
16	Georgia Tech	7-1	722	15
17	Virginia Tech	6-2	596	19
18	Texas	7-2	575	20
19	Penn St.	6-2	575	9
20	Oregon	7-2	498	21
21	Georgia	7-2	488	12
22	Georgia Tech	6-2	315	23
23	Air Force	8-1	260	25
24	Niimi	5-2	244	24
25	Wyoming	6-1	69	-

Others receiving votes: West Virginia 38, Southern Cal 34, Syracuse 30, Kentucky 20, Michigan St. 5, Alabama 4, Texas Tech 4, Marshall 2, Colorado 1, Purdue 1.

# Three Little Pigs scrap with Big Bad Wolf

LONDON (Reuters) - The Big Bad Wolf huffed, puffed and traded blows with the Three Little Pigs at an English First Division match at the weekend. An extraordinary confrontation erupted between mascots at Bristol City's Ashton Gate ground during the club's 6-1 hammering by Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday. Fifteen thousand fans watched as stewards broke up a fight between Wolves' "Wolfie" mascot and three pig mascots representing a local double glazing company during a half-time penalty shoot-out contest for youngsters. Bristol City's bespectacled cat mascot was also involved after Wolfie began taunting them about the score. "I thought it was just a bit of fun at first," City fan David Singleton was quoted as saying. "Then it went a bit wrong when one of the pigs whacked Wolfie. There was another scuffle down by the tunnel and Wolfie caught a pig with a left hook. Then the City Cat steamed in." A Bristol City official apologized. "City Cat has been sacked," he said.

# Ramat Hasharon women hoopsters on a roll

By HEATHER CHAIT

After their success in Europe last week, Ramat Hasharon's women's basketball club are on a roll in the national league also with a second win in two weeks last night. They beat Bnei Yehuda 81-76 in an away game with Mila Nicolice scoring 24 points and Vicky

Johnson 21. Last Wednesday, Ramat Hasharon beat PAOK Athens 71-66 in the Ronchetti Cup to finish first in the qualifying rounds. Last season's champions, Elitzur Ramle, who were hammered in Hungary 84-44 in the European League by Dalia Pecs, beat Hapoel Petah Tikva 103-63 last night. Elitzur Holon, at home and with

new coach Hanan Gutreiman, handed ASA Jerusalem their second successive humiliation, winning 70-61. Holon now leads the Fila League after seven rounds with Maccabi Ra'anana second and Ramat Hasharon third. Galil Elion eked past Ra'anana by three points, winning 89-86 in overtime. Neufosht Carmiel beat Maccabi Ramat Chen 89-84.

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Tender: Het Mem 20/98

For a concession to operate and manage freight terminals at the Rafiah and Nitzana land border crossings.

- Eligible to participate in the tender are bidders complying with the following conditions:  
A. A company registered under Israeli law. The company, owners and managers must comply with all the following:  
1. Have proven experience in storing, handling and shipping freight of at least three years, in the period preceding the date for starting the service.  
2. Have a cumulative sales turnover of at least NIS 5 million, not including VAT, in a business of this type, in the 24 months preceding the date for submitting bids.
- The agreement signed with the successful bidder will be for five years, starting January 1, 1999, and ending December 31, 2003. The Authority may, at its sole discretion, extend this period for an additional period/periods totalling not more than 36 months.
- A. The tender documents may be purchased from November 9, 1998, at the Commercial and Property Branch of the Authority, Main Building, Floor 2, Sunday - Thursday, between 8:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon, and between 2:00 and 3:30 p.m. Before receiving the tender documents, the applicant must submit in writing the name of the liaison person, the phone and fax numbers.  
B. The cost of the tender documents is NIS 3,000 including VAT - in cash or bank check. This sum is not refundable.
- A tour for those who purchase the tender documents only will be held on November 16, 1998, at the Rafiah Terminal. The group will continue on to the Nitzana Terminal.
- Bids, prepared in accordance with the tender documents must be placed in the tenders box at the Registration and Documentation Dept. (the Archives) at the Head Office of the Authority, Ben-Gurion Airport, by December 3, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.
- No undertaking is given to accept the highest or any bid.
- The Internet address: www.ben-gurion-airport.co.il

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## SPORTS

in brief

## 'Catfish' Hunter has Gehrig's disease

NEW YORK (AP) — Hall of Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter, who ushered in the era of escalating salaries in North American Major League Baseball when he signed the sport's first lucrative free agent deal in the 1970s, has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital confirmed he had the fatal disease, which attacks nerves in the spinal cord and brain and causes progressive paralysis.

Hunter, baseball's first big-money free agent, signed a \$3.75 million contract with the New York Yankees in 1974.

## Mets general manager Phillips takes leave

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Mets announced in a statement yesterday that general manager Steve Phillips was granted a temporary leave of absence and that Frank Cashen will serve as interim general manager during his leave.

The New York Mets were informed recently by Steve Phillips that a former employee from Florida is threatening to bring a sexual harassment complaint against him.

## Warne to make Sheffield Shield comeback

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Australian leg spinner Shane Warne moved another stride closer to making his Test comeback when he was named yesterday as captain of the Victorian Sheffield Shield team.

Warne, who underwent shoulder surgery in May, was selected for the four-day match starting in Perth on Friday after successfully completing a one-day match against New South Wales on Sunday. Warne returned figures of one for 23 from eight overs against NSW and is hoping to make it back to the Australian team during the upcoming Ashes series with England.

## Graham makes Taricco his first Spurs buy

LONDON (Reuters) — George Graham made his first signing as Tottenham Hotspur manager yesterday when the English premier league club agreed personal terms with Ipswich Town's Argentine defender Mauricio Taricco.

Tottenham director of football David Platt said Taricco, who currently has an ankle injury, would become a Spurs player as soon as he was fully fit. BBC television said Taricco had completed a £1.75 million move.



THE FINAL CUT — Nasser Hussain plays a cut shot just before his dismissal yesterday. (Reuters)

## England relying on Thorpe, Ramprakash

ADELAIDE (Reuters)

England's hopes of forcing a draw against South Australia rested with Graham Thorpe and Mark Ramprakash after the third day yesterday.

The pair added 69 in an unbroken fifth wicket stand to take England to 149 for four in their second innings at the close, just 11 ahead.

Thorpe was 30 not out and Ramprakash unbeaten on 33 against the side which finished bottom of the Sheffield Shield domestic competition last season.

Resuming at 262 for five, South Australia were dismissed in their first innings for 325. Dominic Cork took the bowling honors with four for 45 off 29 overs.

Greg Blewett, who has a Test average of 48 but is unlikely to gain an Ashes place, struck 143.

England's batsmen, in need of runs with the first Test against Australia only 11 days away, failed to make the most of their opportunity.

Mark Butcher, who was injured batting against Western Australia, scored five — four total 26. He was bowled by former Test paceman Jason Gillespie.

Nasser Hussain and Michael Atherton, the two English batsmen who have shown signs of form, took the score to 72 before England lost their next three wickets for eight runs.

Hussain was the first to go when he was trapped leg before for 17

when a short-pitched delivery from Mark Harriott inexplicably shot along the pitch and hit him on the pads.

England captain Alec Stewart went for a duck — his second of the match — when he was adjudged lbw to Blewett.

It was only the second time in 358 first-class matches that Stewart had made a pair.

Just when England thought the situation could not worsen, Atherton was run out after a patient 53.

He was standing at the bowlers' end when Thorpe drove a delivery from Harriott straight down the pitch.

The ball ricocheted off the bowler's fingers and on to the stumps with Atherton short of his ground.

## Detroit ends skid against Ducks



ANAHEIM (AP) — Brendan Shanahan scored the go-ahead goal twice in the third period and set up another as the Detroit Red Wings beat the Mighty Ducks 3-2 on Sunday.

The victory ended a four-game losing streak by the two-time defending Stanley Cup champions, who hadn't lost four in a row since Scotty Bowman's first month as coach — October 1993.

Lightning 3, Devils 1  
Michal Sykora scored the game-winning goal with 17:39 left in regulation as Tampa Bay won at home. Daren Puppa stopped 34 shots as the Lightning (6-6-2) reached the .500 mark for the first time since Oct. 10, 1997 — a span of 91 games.

New Jersey 0-10-1  
Tampa Bay 1-2-3  
First Period: Tampa Bay, Clark 9 (Pienberg, Jersey), 12:56. Second Period: New Jersey, Sykora 4 (Montross, Elias), 6:17 (pp). Third Period: Tampa Bay, M. Sykora 1 (Clark, McCarthy), 2:21. 4. Tampa Bay, Tucker 5 (Andersson, Cross), 10:07 (pp). Shots on goal: New Jersey 8-14-25. Tampa Bay 11-10-27. Goals: New Jersey, Brodeur. Tampa Bay, Puppa. A-11,514.

Boston 0-2-3-3  
Carolina 1-1-2-2  
First Period: None. Second Period: Carolina, Francis 3 (Kron, Leachman), 11:19 (pp). 2. Boston, Impel (Sampson, Kricheldorf), 12:22. 3. Boston, Kricheldorf 5 (Bourque, Allison), 12:42 (pp). Third Period: Boston, Kricheldorf 6 (Allison, Allison), 11:05. 6. Carolina, Emerson 3 (Roberts), 14:52. 7. Boston, Allison 4 (Kricheldorf, Sampson), 15:40. Shots on goal: Boston 14-11-31. Carolina 8-12-9-30. Goals: Boston, Dabek. Carolina, Irlbe. A-8,966.

Colorado 1-0-0-1  
Calgary 2-0-3-3  
First Period: 1. Calgary, Fleury 9 (Wilm, Wilm), 7:12. 2. Colorado, Drury 3 (Hayduk, Kamenetsky), 9:39 (pp). 3. Calgary, Shantz 2 (Igarka, Bure), 11:59 (pp). A-7,774.

Edmonton 1-0-1-3  
Chicago 1-0-0-3  
First Period: Chicago, Weir 1 (C. Lee, Probert), 14:42. Edmonton, Guss 10 (Hart, Hart), 15:53. Second Period: Chicago, Morrison 8 (Lafayette, Gilmore), 11:56. Third Period: Chicago, Morrison 8 (Lafayette, Gilmore), 11:56. Shots on goal: Edmonton 10-14-3-32. Chicago 10-14-3-32. Goals: Edmonton, Stastuk. Chicago, Fitzpatrick. A-16,388.

12:49. Second Period: None. Third Period: 4. Calgary, Igarka 6 (Morris, Giguere), 10:24 (pp). Shots on goal: Colorado 10-20-10-20. Calgary 9-3-2-20. Goals: Colorado, Roy. Calgary, Giguere. A-16,556.

Detroit 0-1-2-3  
Anaheim 1-1-2-2  
First Period: 1. Anaheim, Sandstrom 5 (Selanne, Morrison), 11:55 (pp). Second Period: Detroit, Yaremko 4 (Shanahan, Lidstrom), 3:52 (pp). Third Period: 3. Detroit, Shanahan 8 (Larionov), 9:43. 4. Anaheim, Morrison 2 (Selanne, Kariya), 12:42 (pp). 5. Detroit, Shanahan 9 (Larionov, Murphy), 16:11. Shots on goal: Detroit 12-16-8-34. Anaheim 22-8-3-38. Goals: Detroit, Osgood. Anaheim, Hossa. A-17,774.

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**Sports Editors**  
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

## Mac. Haifa climb to fourth

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

After qualifying for the quarter finals of the European Cup Winners Cup last Thursday, Dusan Ohrin's Maccabi Haifa came back from a goal down to beat Ironi Rishon LeZion 2-1 yesterday.

More than 5,000 turned up at Rishon's city stadium to see with their own eyes the team that made every Israeli feel proud five days ago. Still, it is a great shame that while on the pitch some feel that we belong to Europe, off it, we are still lagging far behind.

Rishon welcomed Haifa with a bouquet of flowers after their achievement against SV Ried, but many spectators who were stranded outside the modern stadium missed the gesture together with the first 15 minutes, as stewards and police failed to manage a less-than-capacity crowd.

With matches being delayed due to crowd congestion even in the English Premier League, and the fact that only live TV coverage manages to delay the kickoff, makes you wonder if local fans' needs are ever considered.

Elisha Levy's side took the lead in the 12th minute as a mistake by Alon Harazi left Rishon's Rafi Cohen the easy task of sliding the ball underneath Nir Davidovich from the edge of the box.

Haifa soon realized that they will receive no favors in the league as they muscled their way towards Rishon's goal.

See HAIFA, Page 17



**EAST RUTHERFORD (AP)** — Vinny Testaverde, in the midst of the best streak of his 12-year career, passed for three touchdowns in the New York Jets' 34-12 win over the Buffalo Bills on Sunday. The victory, which snapped the Bills' six-game winning streak in the series, left the Jets (6-3) tied with Miami for first place in the AFC East.

New York won its fourth straight thanks to Testaverde's marksmanship and a staunch defense that clamped down on the elusive Doug Flutie.

Testaverde, the 1986 Heisman Trophy winner who is unbeaten in six starts this year, threw for 258 yards, while Flutie (1984

The Falcons (7-2) began the day tied for the NFC West lead with San Francisco and erased any doubts that they can dominate on the road against a winning team.

The Patriots (5-4) dropped out of a four-way tie for the AFC East lead as they lost for the third time in four games.

**Jaguars 24, Bengals 11**  
Sparkled by cornerback Aaron Beasley's 90-yard fumble return, Jacksonville (7-2) opened another big first-half advantage and coasted to a home win.

**Cowboys 16, Giants 6**  
Emmitt Smith became the Cowboys' career leading rusher with a 163 yards and Troy Aikman shook off a painful finger injury to make two critical throws for host Dallas.

The Cowboys delivered what could be a fatal blow to the defending champion Giants' chances of repeating as NFC East champion.

Dallas (6-3) is 5-0 in division games. The Giants, who lost 31-7 to Dallas in the third game of the season, dropped to 3-6.

Gary Brown gained 119 yards in 15 carries for New York.

**Dolphins 27, Colts 14**  
Rookie John Avery rushed for 100 yards and O.J. McDuffie caught two touchdown passes to spark an offense that has sputtered for most of the season for host Miami (6-3).

**Ravens 13, Raiders 10**  
Rod Woodson returned an interception 18 yards for a touchdown and Michael McCrary had four sacks as host Baltimore snapped a four-game losing streak.

The Raiders (6-3), who had won five straight, expected their good fortune to continue with quarterback Jeff George back in the lineup for the first time since October. But George reinjured his groin and left after the first quarter.

**Eagles 10, Lions 9**  
Host Philadelphia survived when Jason Hanson's 58-yard field goal attempt landed short with 31 seconds left.

Charlie Garner rushed for a career-high 129 yards for the Eagles (2-7), who contained Barry Sanders until the final drive and added a glimmer of respectability to their season.

**Rams 20, Bears 12**

Tony Banks completed 24 of 31 passes for 202 yards and one touchdown and ran for another score for visiting St. Louis.

**49ers 25, Panthers 23**  
Ty Detmer, substituting for the injured Steve Young, led a drive to set up Wade Richey's 46-yard field goal with 33 seconds left, as host San Francisco (7-2) overcame an early 16-0 deficit. Young was out with a pulled abdominal muscle.

**Broncos 27, Chargers 10**  
Bobby Brister, who started after John Elway strained rib muscles during pregame warmups, threw two touchdown passes as host Denver remained unbeaten in nine games.

Terrell Davis, the NFL's leading rusher, was held to 69 yards on 20 carries by a San Diego defense that ranked first in total defense and rushing defense. Davis accounted for two touchdowns, catching a 4-yard TD pass from Brister and running 24 yards for another.

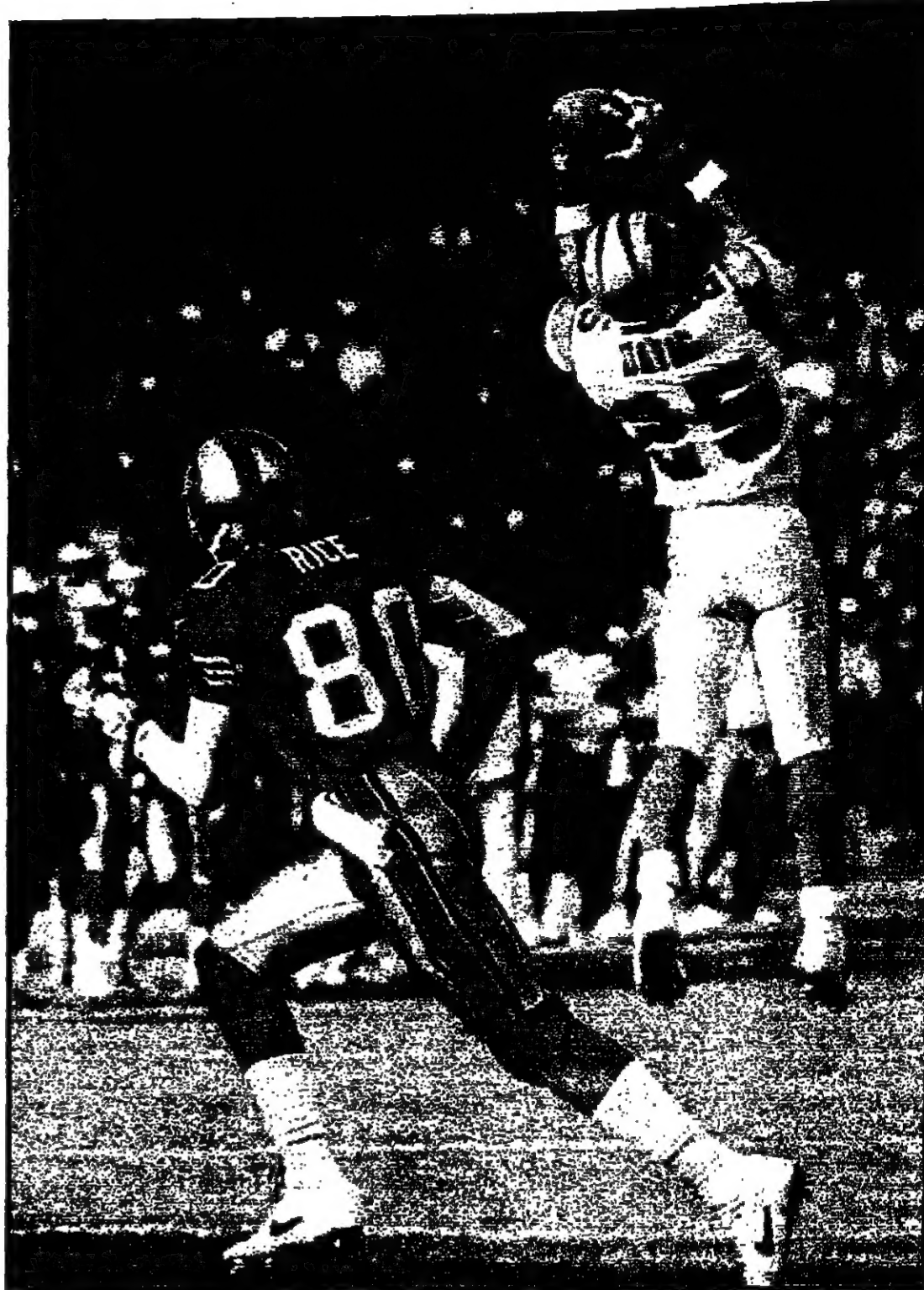
**Cardinals 29, Redskins 27**  
Host Arizona squandered a 9-point lead in the final 1:39, then came back to win on Joe Nedney's 47-yard field goal with two seconds left.

**Seahawks 24, Chiefs 12**  
Host Seattle (5-4), losers of four of their previous five, took advantage of four turnovers that made up for an offense that gained only 202 yards.

It was Kansas City's fourth consecutive defeat, the first time that has happened to the Chiefs since Schottenheimer took over as coach of the franchise in 1989. The Chiefs (4-5) could miss the playoffs for the third time in Schottenheimer's successful tenure in Kansas City.

**Oilers 31, Bucs 22**  
Eddie George had his fifth straight 100-yard game and Steve McNair clinched the outcome by scrambling 71 yards for a touchdown with less than two minutes to go for visiting Tennessee.

The victory was the fourth in five games for the Oilers (5-4), who are 4-1 on the road, but just 1-3 at home. Tampa Bay (4-5), despite leading 16-3 at halftime, lost for the first time at Raymond James Stadium after four straight victories on their new home field.



RETURN TO SENDER — Panthers cornerback Eric Davis (25) leaps to intercept a Ty Detmer pass intended for 49ers' Jerry Rice in second-quarter action. The 49ers won 25-23. (Reuters)

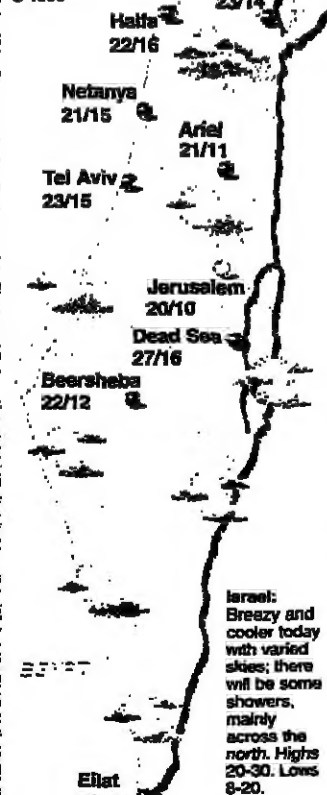
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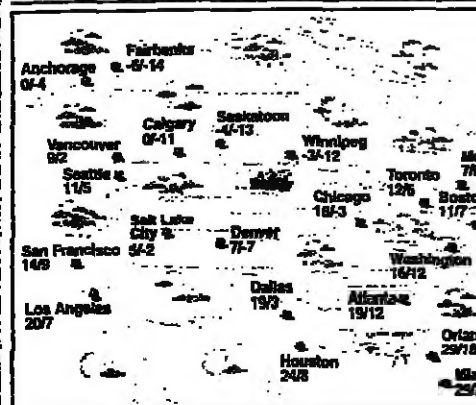
## THE WEATHER

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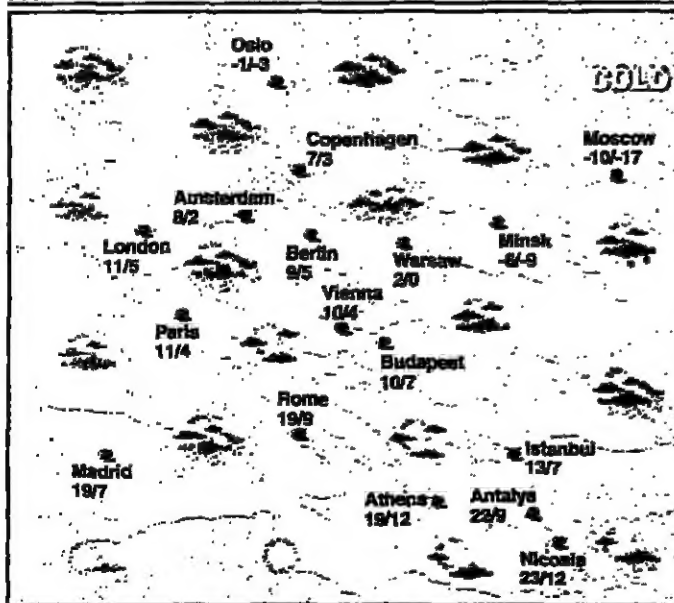
**ISRAEL**  
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## NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



## EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



## ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Ariel	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15
Beersheva	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12	22/12
Haifa	22/16	22/16	22/16	22/16	22/16	22/16	22/16	22/16	22/16
Jerusalem	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Tel Aviv	23/15	23/15	23/15	23/15	23/15	23/15	23/15	23/15	23/15
Tiberias	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14	23/14
Netanya	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15	21/15
Katrin	20/9	20/9	20/9	20/9	20/9	20/9	20/9	20/9	20/9
Dead Sea	27/16	27/16	27/16	27/16	27/16	27/16	27/16	27/16	27/16
Elot	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19	29/19

## INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Ankara	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Beijing	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Bombay	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24
Buenos Aires	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Calcutta	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24	28/24
Chicago	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Hong Kong	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
London	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Los Angeles	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Madrid	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Mexico City	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Montreal	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Moscow	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
New York	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Paris	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Peking	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Rio de Janeiro	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Rome	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Sydney	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10	20/10
Tokyo	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Toronto	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Vancouver	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Warsaw	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Washington	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4
Zurich	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4	18/4

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